

**PROPOSAL 193**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Require king salmon caught and released in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries not be removed from the water as follows:

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:

(1) in the Kenai River as follows:

...

(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 aac 77.525, except that only one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, and no more than 10 king salmon less than 20 inches in length, may be retained per household; king salmon less than 20 inches in length may be retained under this subparagraph notwithstanding 5 aac 21.359(e)(2); **king salmon intended or required to be released may not be removed from the water.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During times of low king salmon abundance in Upper Cook Inlet all user groups are affected and in some cases prevented from targeting other species except personal use fisheries which may continue to fish despite typically using gillnet mesh in their nets. Numerous studies have shown that removing sport caught king salmon from the water is very detrimental to spawning success, it would follow that by allowing a king salmon caught by the gills thrash around at the bottom of a boat, or on the river bank would be even more detrimental to spawning success. This is a simple regulation to ensure that all user groups are burdened with conservation of King Salmon and make regulations more uniform.

Alternatives:

-Limiting gill net material in dip nets was rejected by the board of fish for the Copper River

-Limiting dip netting from boats (the primary group who catches king salmon in the PU fishery) during times of low king salmon abundance was deemed punitive, and could limit the effectiveness of the dip net fishery in times of low king salmon but high sockeye salmon abundance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Patrick P McCormick

(EF-F23-088)

\*\*\*\*\*