

PROPOSAL 231

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

Modify dates of the Susitna River dip net fishery as follows:

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(h) salmon may be taken by dipnet in the Susitna River, only as follows:

- (1) **July 17 – August 7:** [JULY 10 - JULY 31:] Open to fishing only on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Purposes of the Northern District Salmon Management Plan include: The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks for commercial and inriver uses to provide an opportunity to harvest these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fishermen and other inriver users a reasonable opportunity to harvest these resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions, or as specified in this section and other regulations.

The inriver Lower Susitna River personal use dipnet fishery is only allowed to harvest salmon on Saturdays and Wednesdays from July 10 - 31. The board created this fishery with conservative opportunity during the last board cycle. Personal use harvests have been modest during the first three years of this fishery - and harvest data indicates the first Saturday and Wednesday (up to one third of the annual personal use harvest opportunity in this fishery) occur before there are many salmon available for harvest. Harvest data and ADF&G Susitna River drainage fish wheel and weir data indicate better abundance of the 4 salmon species open to harvest in this fishery later in the season. In addition, harvest data indicates that a few king salmon have been illegally taken in this fishery. Whereas the Northern District Salmon Management Plan specifically seeks to provide harvest opportunity based on abundance, and whereas the plan further specifies providing sport, guided sport, and OTHER INRIVER USERS a reasonable opportunity to harvest not just chum, pink, and sockeye salmon, but also coho salmon over the entire run, and whereas illegal to harvest king salmon are more likely to be caught in the early portion of July, we therefore propose amending the Lower Susitna River personal use fishery to run one week later on Saturdays and Wednesdays from July 17 - August 7. .

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission (HQ-F23-039)
