

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan.

Allow fishing from shore in the marine waters adjacent to Ninilchik River and Deep Creek year round as follows:

Open the beaches at Ninilchik River mouth and Deep Creek River to surf casting fishing all year round, with the only exclusion being no surf casting fishing within 200 meters/yards north/south of the rivers mouth entering Cook Inlet. Bag limits to be those that are stated for Cook Inlet salt waters. If a biologic science case can be made for the closure of incidental caught king salmon, close their take and publish any allowed take will be by Emergency Order's process of ADFG.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the very family/elderly easy to use Ninilchik and Deep Creek beach areas are mostly closed to surf cast fishing for bottom fish species. Exceptions being the opening associated with Memorial Day Weekend and two subsequent weekend periods. Late in the summer restrictions are lifted against surf casting off the beaches of the two areas. Families have a ball in the surf casting fishery and young fishers are recruited via this fishery. For the elderly the surf casting fishery where the access can be negotiated fills days and occasionally freezers with fish and keeps them in the fishing pursuit years after owning/operating a boat is viable/safe. The roads, parking, beaches and outhouses on the Deep Creek and Ninilchik River mouth beaches are perfect for surf casting fishers and should be made available. No reasonable impact on any fish species will occur if the beaches are opened all fishing season.

PROPOSED BY: John Bithos

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