

PROPOSAL 114 – 5 AAC 01.230. Subsistence fishing permits. Require subsistence salmon fishing permits in Yukon Area District 5 and set permit limits for king salmon during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

The board will need to determine permit stipulations during times of king salmon conservation.

5 AAC 01.230. Subsistence fishing permits. (b)

(1) for the **taking of salmon in District 5** [YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM FROM THE WESTERNMOST TIP OF GARNET ISLAND TO THE MOUTH OF THE DALL RIVER];

...

(3) Repealed

(f) In District 5, only during times of king salmon conservation, the department may set permit limits for king salmon by household or communities based upon the estimated surplus of king salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow opportunity for subsistence king salmon harvest in District 5 during low king salmon runs through use of household or community subsistence fishing permits. In Districts 1–4 and 6, the department may allow 6-inch mesh gillnets to direct harvest at summer chum salmon with some incidental harvest of king salmon during times of king salmon conservation. Fish wheels may also be allowed to harvest summer chum and other species with king salmon required to be released unharmed. In District 5 there are few summer chum salmon available and the majority of king salmon in this district are Canadian bound. While many Yukon River fishermen can harvest summer chum salmon for food, District 5 fishermen may have less opportunity for obtaining fish for subsistence uses. A permit system would allow for a controlled harvest of king salmon in District 5 to allow for a more equitable distribution of king salmon harvest in this portion of the drainage during low runs. A permit system could allow fishermen to fish earlier in the run rather than fishing late in the run when fish quality is not as good and female king salmon may be more prevalent. A community permit might allow more involvement by local fishermen in determining when they can fish and how to distribute a limited harvest while still meeting escapement needs to Canada. Since subsistence fishing permits are already required in portions of District 5, it might be reasonable to extend this regulation to the remainder of the district. The permit system would provide subsistence salmon harvest reporting for this portion of the river.

PROPOSED BY: Gene J. Sandone

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