

PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses. Separate the amounts necessary for subsistence use of king salmon into three parts on the Kuskokwim River, as follows:

5 AAC 01.286 is amended to read:

5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following fish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

...

(b) The board finds that the following amounts of fish are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses:

(1) 67,200 - 109,800 king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage, **including**

(A) 22,400-36,600 in the Kuskokwim River from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary at the mouth of the Kuskokwim (a line between 59° 59.958' N, 162° 30.458' W and 59° 59.945' N and 162° 11.154' W) upstream to Graveyard Point.

(B) 22,400-36,600 in the Kuskokwim River from Graveyard Point to the Y below Kwethluk at the mouth of Kuskokwaq Slough; and

(C) 22,400-36,600 in the Kuskokwim River from the Y below Kwethluk at the mouth of Kuskokwaq Slough to the headwaters;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stony-Holitna Advisory Committee has submitted three separate proposals to use as tools in addressing this issue. The three proposals (see Proposals 94 and 97) would be most effectively considered as a group in sequential order with this being the first proposal. However, each proposal could stand alone.

Reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon has not been provided for many years in the middle/upriver communities on the Kuskokwim River. This has been especially evident over the last five years when there has been a limited harvestable surplus. The communities from Bethel and the surrounding area have harvested a disproportionate share of the Chinook. Currently there are no limits or reporting requirements for Chinook on the Kuskokwim. The increase in harvest at the lower end of the Kuskokwim results in not allowing enough Chinook to continue upriver to make escapement and provide a reasonable opportunity for those communities upriver of Bethel to meet their needs. The effect gets progressively more pronounced the further upriver a community is located.

Using the present ANS number, divide the ANS into three equal parts, a nested ANS, based roughly on current subsistence harvest in these three portions of the river. One third to be below Bethel, one third to encompass the Bethel area and one third to be above Bethel. These proportions are based on subsistence harvest data both from a 5 year average and a 24 year average, with little or no change over that time span. This would give the managers a formal target to aim for in each part of the river. Managers have a broad spectrum of management tools available to them to be used to help each ANS area achieve an equal portion of the harvest. The

goal is to strive for equal harvest in each ANS area. This may be achieved by using different management options in each area. Notwithstanding this goal, it is acknowledged that ANS is most useful as a post-season tool to be used to adjust management approaches for the coming year.

PROPOSED BY: Stony-Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-041)
