

**PROPOSAL 209 – 5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.** Repeal the *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

**Repeal 5AAC 21.366 Northern District King Salmon Management Plan in its entirety.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern District King Salmon Management Plan was drafted in 1986 in response to a projected return of Northern District king salmon so large that the sport fishery did not have the ability to harvest all the surplus king salmon using the regulations in place at the time. It is the only Upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery targeting early run king salmon, and the purpose of the plan is:

“The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Northern District king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon over the entire run as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions.”

For the past 5 years, as evidenced by the department closing or severely restricting sport king salmon harvest in all Northern District drainages where the sport fishery targets wild king salmon, the plan provisions allowing targeted commercial openings to harvest surplus king salmon no longer fit the stated purpose of the plan. It simply does not make sense to allow extra harvest by a small special interest group (only 40 - 60 registered Northern District permit holders) at the expense of all other Alaskans and visitors who would like to harvest a few king salmon, but have been shouldering more severe conservation restrictions and total harvest closures. Having already gone 4 years or more with sport king salmon harvests closed by emergency order starting in May on 13 of the 17 Northern Management Area streams with established king salmon spawning escapement goals, and emergency restrictions on the remaining 4 streams with king salmon escapement goals as well, it is long past time to remove the commercial opportunity to target Northern District king salmon before June 24 at a time when few other salmon are available for harvest. This would more closely align the Northern District commercial season with most other commercial fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet. Northern District commercial fishermen could still participate in the sport and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and would still be able to harvest Northern District king salmon after June 24.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F16-057)  
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