

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 24.360. Copper River District Salmon Management Plan.

Set an optimal escapement goal for Copper River sockeye salmon, as follows:

Set an OEG of 700,000-1,200,000 for Copper River Sockeye matching the late run Kenai Sockeye OEG. The Copper River is a much longer drainage with more spawning and rearing habitat than the Kenai. The current SEG of 360,000-750,000 is artificially low but is cited by the commercial fish managers as the primary justification for continuing to exploit King Salmon. Over escapement of sockeye has never been a true biological concern on the Copper River and should not be cited as an excuse to harvest Kings.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Having no OEG for Sockeye causes managers to exploit Kings under the excuse of trying to avoid exceeding the sockeye SEG.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F17-045)
