

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Prohibit sale of commercially caught king salmon in the Copper River District if restrictions on Copper River drainage subsistence fisheries have been implemented, as follows:

Prohibit the sale of commercially caught king salmon if there are any subsistence restrictions on the stock, as follows:

Despite inside closures and other efforts to restrict King Salmon harvest in 2016, the commercial fleet managed to kill 13,005 Kings. More than the spawning escapement of 12,831. But for the incidental commercial harvest, the escapement goal would have been met in 2016. We believe that when Kings are worth more than \$5 a pound, it will be impossible for managers to keep incidental King harvest in 2017 to their goal of less than 3,500 and that 2017 will once again fail to meet the escapement, plunging Copper River Kings into stock of concern status.

The Board should adopt regulations prohibiting the sale of commercially caught Kings if there are any subsistence restrictions on the fish stock, as it did on the Yukon years ago. With no economic incentive to target a stock of concern, the commercial fleet would seek to avoid Kings and the incidental catch could be donated to upriver users, as occurred on the Yukon, when the upriver users were denied any harvest opportunity.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the economic incentive to harvest Kings in the Sockeye fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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