

**PROPOSAL 36**

**5 AAC 24.320. Weekly fishing periods.**

Open the Copper River District commercial salmon fishery for a minimum of two twelve-hour periods per week, as follows:

(a) From the commencement of the fishing season the Copper River shall be open for a minimum of two twelve hour openers per week.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Escapement goals have consistently been met or greatly exceeded on the Copper River for the last 30 years. Extended closures of the gillnet fisheries are extremely deleterious to local economies. There are 168 hours in a week. Two twelve hour openers would still allow 144 hours in a week or 85% of total time for escapement. A fishery which allows 85% of time for escapement cannot damage fish stocks over the long term.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert A. Smith

(HQ-F17-061)

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