

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 24.350. Closed waters.

Repeal commercial salmon fishery closed waters near Kayak Island and allow commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear near Kayak Island with the same boundaries in effect in 1980, as follows:

(2)(B)

The Kayak Island fishery waters will be reinstated to 1980 boundaries.

Strike section 2B of 5 AAC 24.50

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial fishermen on the Copper River have over decades experienced large reductions in traditional fishing areas. At the same time that the AREA E fishing fleet has lost inside waters, the ocean fishing off of Kayak Island has also been eliminated. Based upon inconclusive evidence that the Kayak Island fishery was intercepting fish bound for the Situk River, the Kayak Island fishery was closed to Copper River fishermen in the mid 1980's'. As inside waters closures become lengthier year after year, and escapement goals are being exceeded consistently the fleet is left with smaller and smaller areas to fish.

PROPOSED BY: Warren Chappell

(HQ-F17-083)
