PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 01.182. Tier II subsistence chum salmon fishery.

Repeal the Tier II subsistence chum salmon fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 01.182

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Repealed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We propose eliminating 5 AAC 01.182 altogether. The department has not implemented Tier II regulations since 2004. In 2005, the department waived Tier II restrictions early in the season, gave all applicants a Tier I harvest permit, and eventually waived subsistence harvest limits on chum salmon. Since 2005, harvestable surpluses above chum salmon escapement needs have occurred in all years except 2009 rendering Tier II regulations moot.

There is widespread consensus amongst stakeholders area managers that the implementation of Tier II restrictions was onerous, divisive, and ultimately unnecessary. It is more effective to implement restrictions in fishing time, area, and gear in season, including the use of closures to conserve chum salmon for escapement needs, such as in 2009. Additionally, subsistence harvest pressure by Nome residents has shifted predominantly toward sockeye salmon on the Pilgrim River, and coho and pink salmon in Nome Subdistrict subsistence fisheries. The likelihood that Tier II restrictions will ever be implemented again is remote.