

PROPOSAL 181

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

Delay all Upper Cook Inlet set and Central District drift gillnet commercial fishing opening dates, as follows:

Drift Gillnet Fishery: **June 27** [June 22].

All remaining set gillnet fisheries, except the Upper Subdistrict: **July 1** [June 25].

Upper Subdistrict Set Gillnet Fishery: **July 1** [June 25] for the Kasilof Section (that portion south of the Blanchard Line), unless opened earlier by EO (based on an inriver estimate of 50,000 Kasilof River sockeye salmon before the **July 1** [June 25] opener), but will not open before June 25 [20]. The Kenai and East Forelands Sections (that portion of the Upper Subdistrict north of the Blanchard Line) may open on or after **July 15** [July 8]. All Sections of the Upper Subdistrict will close for the season on or before August 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The upper Kenai River has suffered a steady decline in salmon return numbers. This disturbing trend has been observed by all user groups on the upper Kenai River. Upper Kenai River salmon return to Cook Inlet and the Kenai River earlier than lower river spawners. Commercial fishing opener dates contribute to the commercial scale harvest of these earlier arriving fish.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Adams

(HQ-F19-051)
