PROPOSAL 182
5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.
Open the Kasilof Section commercial set gillnet fishery June 20 instead of June 25, as follows:

5 AAC 21.310 would be amended to read:
(b) Salmon may be taken only as follows:
(2) Central District, for set gillnet:
(C) Upper Subdistrict:
(i) Kasilof Section: from June **20** [25] through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; **from June 20 through June 24, the fishery is open for regular fishing periods only,** however, if the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River [BEFORE JUNE 25, BUT ON OR AFTER] **between June 20 and June 24**, [JUNE 20], the commissioner may immediately, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery opens by regulation on or after June 25, unless 50,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to be in the Kasilof River prior to June 25 which allows the department to open the fishery by emergency order, but no earlier than June 20. Drift gillnetting opens by regulation on the first regular period on or after June 19. This proposal seeks to open the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery for regular Monday/Thursday fishing periods on or after June 20, while retaining the 50,000 fish trigger that would allow extra fishing time by emergency order. For example, if the season opened on Monday, June 20, and the department estimated that 50,000 sockeye salmon were in the Kasilof River on Wednesday, June 22, they could use emergency order time to fish that day. The primary reason for this request is that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon BEG has been exceeded in 16 of the last 20 years (1999-2018). Having an earlier opening with the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery would provide the department with an additional timed opening in order to meet the BEG goal.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Beaudoin   (HQ-F19-116)
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