PROPOSAL 200

5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

Close the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery when the sport fishery in the Susitna or Knik Arm drainages are restricted, as follows:

Amend item (10) of the Northern District King Salmon management plan to state the following "if any rivers / streams in the Susitna and Knik Arm drainages, where King Salmon sport fishing is allowed, have harvest restrictions, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial King Salmon fishery throughout the Northern District until the King Salmon sport fishery harvest restrictions are rescinded

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King Salmon harvest opportunity in the Susitna drainage, has largely been denied by emergency order regulation consistently since 2009. King Salmon harvest in Unit 2, has not even occurred since 2012 (in 2012 the King Salmon fishery closed on June 25, which is prior to peak run strength within Unit 2).

According to the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan, "the department shall manage King Salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon over the entire run as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions."

Road accessible wild King Salmon sportfishing harvest opportunity, with the exception of the Little Susitna River (which is primarily a boat fishery) has not occurred since 2012 in the Knik Arm and Susitna Drainages.

According to a 1985 Board of Fisheries Finding signed by the Board Chair, the Northern District King Salmon set net fishery was opened, on the premises of "available Chinook surpluses for harvest." Additionally this finding stated "If there is no harvestable Chinook population identified beyond the sport fishery requirements, the Northern District commercial set net fishery will be closed."

PROPOSED BY: Ben Allen   (EF-F19-054)
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