

**PROPOSAL 207**

**5 AAC 21.358. Northern District Salmon Management Plan.**

Remove the Eastern Subdistrict gear restrictions in the *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 21.358(c) would be amended to read:

(c) From July 20 through August 6, if the department's assessment of abundance indicates that restrictions are necessary to achieve the escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the **General Subdistrict of the** Northern District and immediately reopen a season during which the number of set gillnets that may be used is limited to the following options selected at the discretion of the commissioner, except that from July 31 through August 6, the commissioner may allow the use of two set gillnets in that portion of the General Subdistrict south of the Susitna River:

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Susitna River sockeye salmon were designated as a Stock of Yield (SOY) concern by the board in 2008. An action plan was developed to conservatively manage UCI commercial fisheries that harvest this stock while research continued to better understand limitations on stock productivity. For the set gillnet fishery in the Northern District, the board provided the department with authority to reduce gear from July 20 through August 6 in order to reduce sockeye salmon harvest and to achieve escapement goals at Judd, Chelatna, and Larson lakes.

From 2006 to 2014 ADF&G sampled the Eastern Subdistrict set gillnet commercial sockeye salmon harvest for Genetic Stock Identification (GSI). From these data, it was determined that from an average harvest of 13,121 sockeye salmon per year, only 13.3% or 1,777 fish per year were of Susitna River origin. The average annual run of sockeye salmon to the Susitna River from 2006-2014 was 413,747 fish per year, which means the Eastern Subdistrict harvest of this stock is only 0.5% of the annual run. Based on this very small harvest of Susitna River sockeye salmon, this proposal seeks to remove the Eastern Subdistrict set gillnet fishery from the gear restrictions found in the 5 AAC 21.358(c) *Northern District Salmon Management Plan*.

**PROPOSED BY:** Russell Clark

(HQ-F19-073)

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