

PROPOSAL 78

5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan* to include weighted criteria for the allocation of fishery resources, as follows:

Amend to add the following guidance for allocation:

When allocating fishery resources within the Upper Cook Inlet Region the Board shall consider the following factors giving appropriate weight to each in the order provided herein,

- (1) The importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption;**
- (2) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the state;**
- (3) The importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;**
- (4) The number of residents and nonresidents who have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future;**
- (5) The history of each personal use, sport, guided sport, and commercial fishery;**
- (6) The importance of each fishery in providing recreational opportunities for residents and nonresidents.**

The availability of alternative fisheries resources of similar characteristics.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The State of Alaska through the Alaska Board of Fisheries is not fulfilling its Constitutional obligation to maximize the benefit of the fisheries resource to the people of the State by continuing to restrict sport, guided sport and personal use salmon fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet in favor of the commercial salmon fisheries.

AS 16.05.251(e) Regulations of the Board of Fisheries provide direction for allocation of fisheries resources in the form of a list of factors to be considered. This statute was adopted in 1989. The Board subsequently complied with the statute by adopting it in regulation, essentially by reference, in 1991. No action has been taken to amend or improve the regulation since that time. The broad guidance identified in this list of factors is not adequate to address fishery allocation conflicts in the contentious Upper Cook Inlet, sport, commercial, personal use, and subsistence fisheries. Not all factors in the list should be weighted equally. In particular, this list of factors fails to recognize the need and priority for providing residents the opportunity to harvest fish for personal and family consumption and weighting the importance of the fishery to the economy of the state.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F19-120)
