

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Prohibit personal use proxy permits at Sweetheart Creek, as follows:

The use of proxies for the sweetheart creek personal use fishery is not permitted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It is not uncommon for some participants in the Sweetheart Creek Personal Use fishery to fish a proxy along in addition to their personal limit. The issue is there are limited spots to successfully harvest fish along Sweetheart Creek. Fishery participants with proxy permits -- especially groups in possession of multiple proxy permits -- naturally take more time to fill their proxy permits and thereby limit access by other people wishing to participate in the fishery.

The limit of 25 for Sweetheart Creek was established arbitrarily using the justification of "fairness", as noted in the findings document 2016-281-FB.

Allowing the use of proxies is contrary to the justification of fairness used to set the limit of 25, as it makes it more difficult for some fishery participants to access productive spots along the creek if other participants are in those spots for extended periods of time while essentially filling two (2) limits.

I understand that some members of the community benefit from these proxy fish, but given there is no annual harvest limit, they could simply have people who would normally fish proxies for them return to the creek to harvest another limit.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr

(EF-F20-029)
