

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 55.023. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Establish restrictions in the Copper River Delta coho salmon sport fishery based on the number of days the commercial fishery is closed, as follows:

Adopt a trigger to share the burden of conservation between commercial and sport users in the Copper River Delta.

New regulatory language to be added under 5 AAC 55.023:

(XX) In the Copper River Delta, if the Copper River gillnet fishery is closed for more than seven consecutive days, then catch and release will be prohibited and fishing with bait will be prohibited. If commercial fishing is closed for fourteen consecutive days, then the bag limit will be reduced to one coho, catch and release will be prohibited, and fishing with bait will be prohibited.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are years with weak coho runs, such as fall 2019 when the Copper River coho gillnet fishery was shut down for the entire season due to a weak run. When the commercial fleet sees reduced fishing time and closures in years of low coho abundance and conservation concerns, a trigger for a shared burden of conservation will help to ensure healthy future returns for all user groups.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United

(HQ-F20-012)
