

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 01.647. Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit dipnetting near tributary mouths of the Upper Copper River District, as follows:

No dip netting in the confluence 500 yards below and 100 yards above any river or stream in the upper Copper River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dip netting in the upper Copper River. If we do nothing we will continue to see our wild stock and Gulkana Brood stock decline. In some drainages that are very small we could lose that entire wild stock. Wild stocks are stopping and resting in these areas before continuing up river. The wild stocks are time sensitive and travel in small groups leaving them very vulnerable to over harvest in these areas. Remember these stocks are in some cases very small. There have been very little studies in these areas and there is virtually no data to support keeping these areas open until there is some kind of analysis. We already have an example of this that exists in the Gulkana confluence and 500 yards below that is fly fishing only. This only lets a sport fisher to take 3 reds and 1 king. The way the current dip net regulation reads, you can fish in the same area and the limit is 200 and in some cases more. This goes against the idea of trying to protect wild up river stocks and brood stock at the Gulkana hatchery. They have not met their goals at the hatchery in the past 5 years and in some cases very low. This is only one example of how we can start to bring back our brood stocks, both wild and Gulkana hatchery. Something needs to be done soon about this problem. I have done my best to write this proposal in laymen's terms. I could quote several sections from ANILCA that directly relate to this issue. Also there is very little scientific data on this issue.

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