

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit dipnetting from a moving boat in a portion of the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

Personal-use fishers who are fishing from boats between the mouths of O'Brien Creek and Haley Creek must be tied off to the riverbank, to an object on the riverbank, or to a stationary object in the river. (This does not apply to charter operators.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recent trend of increased dip netting from boats presents some management challenges that demand sensible conservation measures. Wild salmon stocks tend to hole up in deep areas and rest on their way up the river, especially during high water. By dip netting from motorized boats, fishermen are able to target these stocks with a precision that other fishers lack. By motoring slowly while dip netting, fishers in boats can "trawl" slowly down the river, running more cubic feet of river water per minute through their nets than their counterparts on shore are able to.

If boat dipnetters were required to tie off to shore, it would help to level the playing field, and decrease some of the pressure on the resource. Fishers with boats would still have the advantage of being able to move around the river, quickly and easily, to different fishing spots.

There have also been some safety concerns about dip netters from boats in the Woods Canyon area. The current in this area is very strong, and there are very few beaches or banks suitable for landing a boat.

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