

**PROPOSAL 39**

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

Extend the area closed to sport fishing in Ibeck Creek, as follows:

Closing the spawning beds closer to the road system will protect additional spawning and rearing habitat, and protect spawners from additional stress during this critical life stage.

Draft regulatory language:

5 AAC 55.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area. Prohibit sport fishing Coho salmon more than ¼ of a mile north of the Copper River Highway as follows:

(9) Ibeck Creek is closed to sport fishing in the waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately **one-quarter (¼) mile** [THREE MILES] upstream from the Copper River Highway Bridge;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The existing regulation of 3 miles upstream does not adequately protect spawning Coho in this system. Ibeck Creek is the most popular and heavily fished of all the Delta coho runs. Ibeck Creek receives considerable and increasing pressure from coho anglers. It is important to protect the upstream spawning beds and spawning salmon from the stress of being targeted by fishermen. There is considerable fishing area available both below the highway and just above it, and the majority of fishing pressure occurs in these other areas. It is unnecessary to have the spawning areas beyond ¼ mile above the highway open to sportfishing as well. It is important to sustain this popular run for continued and sustainable harvest by all user groups into the future.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cordova District Fishermen United

(HQ-F20-017)

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