

PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

When a federal special action or emergency special action is in effect under ANILCA Title VIII the Alaska Department of Fish and Game would not provide set gillnet fishing periods prior to June 12 when the projected escapement is within the drainagewide escapement goal range, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 07.365(c)(2)(C) as follows:

(C) notwithstanding (c)(2)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one subsistence fishing period per week with four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets, **unless the federal government has exercised its authority under ANILCA Title VIII to manage subsistence salmon fishing to ensure a priority for federal subsistence users**; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Revise Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan to clarify management authority relative to ANILCA Title VIII. Conservation concerns regarding Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon and chum salmon require the application of precautionary management principles. When the Federal Subsistence Management Program assumes management of Kuskokwim River salmon stocks within federal waters, it is important to ensure that political tensions between the State of Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Management Program do not compromise sustainable management principles. Previously, ADF&G has justified violating federal closures to subsistence salmon gillnet fishing in the Kuskokwim River by opening subsistence fishing opportunities to all Alaska residents stating that the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan requires them to do so.

PROPOSED BY: Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (EF-F22-066)
