

**PROPOSAL 123**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons; 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Repeal the “one percent rule” from Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery management plans as follows:

Eliminate the 1% rule from the management plans and manage on abundance using the most reliable science available.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 1% rule doesn't work and only creates harm to the commercial fishing industry, communities and the resource. Since its inception there has been million of salmon gone un-harvested and countless systems being over-escaped. There are not conservation concerns with coho or any other salmon species after July. In fact salmon are returning in good numbers. Kenai sockeye salmon are consistently returning at a higher rate in August and the 1% rule has prevented their harvest along with forgoing harvest of vast numbers of chum and pink salmon in August. The 1% regulation is simply an unreasonable allocation. No other fishery in the State has this unscientific regulation. The 1 % rule prevents the managers from harvesting the millions of surplus salmon, especially on even year pink returns. Delete the mandatory 1% rule regulation from all management plans. The 1% rule restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real time basis, based on in season abundance and salmon migration, to harvest the surplus of all salmon species and results in gross over-escapements and the waste of valuable harvestable salmon surpluses. The 1% rule has resulted in tens of millions of harvestable salmon going un-harvested and negatively affects the commercial fishing industry, communities, National food source, interstate commerce, economies and also decreases future salmon production resulting from the effects of over escapement. It also violates the Magnuson Stevens Act and other applicable laws. The sports fishery has a reasonable opportunity to fish and reasonable numbers of salmon to harvest. In comparison the commercial fisherman, when restricted or closed down, has no other area to fish because they are restricted to the areas and their gear type by their limited entry permit they own. There is unfair and has no parity in reasonable opportunity between commercial and recreational fisheries under the current management plans. Because of overly restricted commercial fishing management plans only around half of the CFEC permit holders are currently participating in the Cook Inlet fishery, thereby reducing their harvest potential by half.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-034)

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