

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods

Provide additional commercial salmon fishing opportunity in Upper Cook Inlet based on salmon escapement as follows:

Commercial fishing will be allowed by all gear types and in all areas of Upper Cook Inlet and with the full use of their respective legal compliment of gear on Mondays from 7am to 7pm, Wednesdays 7am to 7pm, and Fridays 7am to 7pm. In order to keep escapement levels within the MSY escapement goals for the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, fishing periods will be adjusted by E.O. in the following manner: Projected final escapements will be calculated on a daily basis, as they have been in recent years, and those numbers will determine whether regular fishing periods will be restricted or if extra time will be allowed. If projected final escapements stray either way from the MSY escapement range, then fishing time will be adjusted accordingly. Actual escapement numbers will dictate fishing time rather than mandatory closures.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In order to meet the Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) principle required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and to achieve the MSY escapement goals of 600,000-800,000 sockeye for the Kenai River and 150,000-250,000 sockeye for the Kasilof River, regulations need to be changed to allow fishing time and area which are needed to achieve these goals.

PROPOSED BY: Teague Vanek

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