

PROPOSAL 191

5 AAC 77.525. Personal use salmon fishery

Adjust annual limits in Cook Inlet personal use fisheries based on abundance as follows:

(c) in the personal use taking of salmon, unless otherwise specified in [5 AAC 77.500](#) - [5 AAC 77.548](#), the total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is [25] **15** salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder. **except by emergency order if the maximum end of the optimum escapement goal is projected to be exceeded, then the limit will shall be up to 30 salmon for the head of household and 20 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The UCI personal use salmon fishery has grown in popularity in recent years however basic management has not followed suit. It is prudent to have more conservative regulations at the start of each season and manage based on abundance. Currently the only tool regularly employed during times of low abundance in the personal use fishery is the cutting back of fishing time by a day or two. This denies some residents the opportunity to harvest salmon as the catch would be concentrated. Often sport and commercial fisheries are severely restricted and the personal use fishery is not. By starting with lower limits then expanding based on escapement the personal use fishery can remain sustainable, share conservation burdens equally among all user groups and in some cases be used to better manage the different fisheries. For instance it is a common occurrence that the Kasilof River has a very strong escapement but the Kenai River has a very weak run, most personal use fishermen fish the Kenai River because the fish are larger however by liberalizing limits on the Kasilof and leaving conservative limits on the Kenai the pressure would increase on the Kasilof and lower on the Kenai allowing managers to better manage each fishery and using the personal use fishery for maximum sustained yield proactively. This proposal would allow for additional liberalization if the in season management would allow. This would be a win for all stakeholders, but most importantly it would give managers the flexibility needed to best manage the world class resource.

Alternatives:

-Allow 10 fish per person regardless of household status, limit seemed low.

-Set limits for each river in UCI does not allow flexibility of in season management.

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