

PROPOSAL 194

5 AAC 77.540 Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan

Allow retention of Dolly Varden in Kenai/Kasilof personal use dipnet fisheries as follows:

Allow up to 15 Dolly Varden to be taken in Kenai/Kasilof personal use dipnet fisheries per Upper Cook Inlet permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Every year while dipnetting on the Kenai River we encounter Dolly Varden incidental bycatch. From past experience these Dolly Varden have an extremely high catch and release mortality rate, almost every single one is badly tangled in the net and bleeding from the gills. You don't need to be a fish biologist to know that these fish are not gonna survive. It is currently illegal to keep Dolly Varden by dipnet in Upper Cook Inlet dipnet fisheries. The current population is not threatened and people will not intentionally target Dolly Varden more if passed. This will allow people to retain and enjoy eating this fine fish that most likely was gonna die when released anyway. Instead of wasting this bycatch let the people keep them.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Madison

(EF-F23-061)
