

## **PROPOSAL 203**

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

Move the regulatory markers for the Kasilof River personal use dip net fishery as follows:

Regulation:

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

(c.2.C) from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers outside the terminus of the river on the north shore beach at [60° 23.25' N. LAT., 151° 17.98' W. LONG.] **NNN N. lat., 151° NNN' W. long.**, and on the south shore beach at 60° 23.27' N. lat., 151° 18.64' W. long., upstream for a distance of one mile.

Determine new lat., long., coordinates for the north shore marker to ensure a straight line across the mouth of the Kasilof River. It's expected that the new marker would not need to be moved far to ensure a straight line that is easy for the fisher to identify and for enforcement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the summer of 2022, ADF&G issued permits for the Kasilof River Personal Use Dipnet Fishery with a map that showed the downriver boundary of the fishery extending out into Cook Inlet consistent with the extent outward of the regulatory line of the personal use set net fishery. However, this map was not consistent with regulations.

The boundaries of the fishery, as shown in the regulation, are difficult to discern as they do not align with the actual mouth of the river. Therefore fishers on the south shore during low water may be over the regulatory line. It is also difficult for enforcement to determine who is over the line based on the current markers. In conversations with enforcement, they related that they must use the regulations for enforcement. They also related that seeing who was over the regulatory line was difficult. Conversations revealed frustration on the part of the fisher and enforcement.

This issue is only a problem during low tide. This is not an issue during mid to high water as fishers cannot get close to the regulatory line due to the tide pushing users away from the line. However, enforcement visited the beach and ticketed approximately 20 people barely over the regulatory line during extreme low tide. It's estimated that fishers were less than 10 yards or less over the regulatory line.

This proposal would move the northeast marker to the far edge of the mouth to create a straight line across the river as it is perceived from the vantage point of the fisher and enforcement. This would eliminate confusion and lead to compliance by fishers with the need for fewer citations on the part of enforcement.

During the summer of 2022, we conducted a small social science research project on the social and economic benefits of the Kenai and Kasilof River Personal Use Dipnet fisheries to underrepresented populations in Southcentral Alaska. We found that many people with limited means use the fishery to provide food security for their households, and it's an important fishery for diverse populations who use the fishery as a communal family activity as well as for food

security. What is unfortunate is that many of the cited people really can't afford the \$220 citation. They were fishing to provide for their families. If nothing is changed, there will continue to be confusion as to the boundary of the fishery by fishers and enforcement. This will lead to \$220 citations by those who use this fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Davin Holen

(EF-F23-141)

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