

PROPOSAL 221

5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Create a bag and possession limit of 3 coho salmon in the Susitna River Drainage as follows:

(2) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 — December 31; bag and possession limit is three fish, [OF WHICH NO MORE THAN TWO PER DAY AND TWO IN POSSESSION MAY BE COHO SALMON;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2000 the sport fishery general coho salmon bag and possession limits throughout the Susitna River drainage was reduced from 3 fish daily and in possession to 2 fish daily and in possession.

More recently sport coho bag and possession limits in most units of the Susitna River drainage were restored to their previous level, however the restrictive limits still remain in the general drainage-wide listing — which now may only cover Unit 2. If harvest of coho salmon is indeed being minimized in the Northern District commercial fishery as repeatedly directed in the Northern District salmon management plan, then we believe there should be enough coho salmon to return to the former limits and especially in a rural area like Unit 2. Unlike year 2000, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) now has a Deshka River coho salmon escapement goal, whereby the Susitna River drainage may be monitored and inseason adjustments made during times of low or high coho salmon abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Sportfishing Association

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