PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 47.023 –Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

In the Situk River – within 50 yards of the 9-Mile Bridge on Forest Highway 10, sport fishing is closed June 1 – August 15 unless the upper end of the escapement goal of 1050 is met for chinook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chinook salmon in the Situk River have struggled to reach minimum escapement since 2008, with eight of the past sixteen years being below minimum. To address conservation concerns, we propose closing a popular chinook holding hole, which consequently receives high sport fishing pressure. 9-mile Bridge is an easy vehicle access fishing site that receives high fishing pressure and chinook interactions. We considered closing this location year-round, but we prefer the least restrictive action to focus this effort on chinook conservation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.