

**PROPOSAL 58**

**5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Copper River King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 24.361(d) is amended to read:

...

(d) In the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery,

(1) the annual limit for king salmon is one fish;

(2) if the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which the retention of king salmon is prohibited; [.]

**(3) if the commissioner projects that the upper bound of the escapement goal will be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dipnet salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which the king salmon annual limit per household permit is increased.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In December 2021, the board adopted the current drainagewide sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 21,000–31,000 king salmon. Copper River spawning escapement exceeded 31,000 king salmon in 2023. To mitigate exceeding the escapement goal, the only management actions available inriver are limited to liberalizing the sport fisheries, which have limited harvest potential and fishing is concentrated to only three tributaries. Allowing an increase in the king salmon annual household limit for the personal use fishery provides the department a management tool to attempt to stay within the SEG, if needed, across all upper Copper River and upper Chitina River stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-167)

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