

PROPOSAL 59

5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Amend the Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591(e) is amended to read:

...

- (e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is **as follows;**
 - (1) 25 salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household[.];**
 - (2) if the commissioner projects that the upper bound of the Copper River drainage sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal will be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Chitina Subdistrict personal use dip net salmon fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which the annual limit for the head of household is increased by XX sockeye salmon with no increase in the king salmon annual limit established in 5 AAC 77.591(e)(1), or an increase in the king salmon annual limit by conditions specified in 5 AAC 24.361(d).**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2003, the Copper River sockeye salmon escapement goal has been exceeded 4 years, from 2012-2015. 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 are concentrated to only two tributaries. Allowing an increase in the sockeye salmon annual household limit for the personal use fishery provides the department a management tool to attempt to stay within the SEG as well as distributing harvest across all upper Copper River and Chitina River stocks. The department will provide options and potential harvest from several scenarios of increased limits for the board to consider.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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