

PROPOSAL 60

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

Modify the annual limit for the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 77.591(e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is **20** [25] salmon for the head of household and **5** [10] salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Allocation

The Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery has between 6,000 and 8,000 participants each year. The past three years have gone over the allocated 100,000 – 150,000 salmon limit with a three-year average of 163,989 (an underestimation, based on preliminary 2023 data). Lowering the bag limit by 5 fish per household member will ensure all Personal Use fishermen a reasonable opportunity to participate while accounting for increased interest in the Copper River fishery, and still remain below the 150,000 fish threshold. Closures around the state have brought and will bring more participants to this fishery. Ensuring the sustainability of Copper River salmon is the responsibility of all user groups including the Personal Use.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Shirley Smelcer

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