

**PROPOSAL 187**

**5 AAC 30.320. Fishing periods, 5 AAC 30.331. Gillnet specifications and operations, and 5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters.**

Close the Tsiu River and all waters within one quarter mile of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to commercial fishing for salmon, as follows:

Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC:30 Yakutat Area

Close the Tsiu River and all waters within ¼ mile radius of the Tsiu River and Kaliakh River confluence to fishing with set gillnets by amending 5 AAC 30.350(12). Repeal management plan sections regarding fishing days in the Tsiu River [5 ACC 30.320(1)], set gillnet length in the Tsiu River [5 AAC30.331(a)(2)(C)] and waterway obstruction [5 ACC 30.331(b)] as they are no longer applicable.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A storm surge in 2025 has altered the mouth of the Tsiu River so that it is now a tributary to the Kaliakh River. Previously, the Tsiu River mouth connected directly to the sea. In the Yakutat Area management plan, the Tsiu River was subject to specific regulations for the set gillnet fishery to project spawning escapements. These included reduced number of fishing days, net length, obstruction of the waterway and closed waters. With the change in river mouth location, Tsiu River salmon are now subjected to increased exploitation rates. The Kaliakh is a much larger river with a larger run of coho. It is open for more time each week than the Tsiu. By placing setnets around and below the confluence Tsiu fish will be caught when the Tsiu is closed harming the run and sportfishery.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Ernhart

(ACR-F26-008)

\*\*\*\*\*