

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal mandatory closed waters from the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Repeal mandatory inside commercial closures for any statistical week from regulation. Repeal mandatory commercial salmon fishery inside waters closures in the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Draft regulatory language:

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

(b) **Repealed xx/xx/20.** [IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY, DURING THE STATISTICAL WEEKS 20 AND 21, THE COMMISSIONER MAY NOT OPEN MORE THAN ONE 12-HOUR FISHING PERIOD WITHIN THE INSIDE CLOSURE AREA OF THE COPPER RIVER DISTRICT DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 24.350(1)(B).]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) has the authority to manage fisheries and has demonstrated its ability to do so effectively; therefore, mandatory closures are unnecessary. There has been an upward trend in the Copper River Chinook run in recent years further making mandatory closures unnecessary. ADFG has opposed mandatory closures on sport fisheries as these closures are mandated even when the circumstances of a current year's run strength and timing do not require them. This proposal does not suggest eliminating the inside closure tool as it is warranted, but rather suggests the elimination of this mandatory language.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United

(HQ-F20-018)
