

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 01.625. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.

Allow subsistence fishing for salmon in the Copper River inside closure area, as follows:

We recommend opening inside closure waters to subsistence fishing by adding new subsection 5 AAC 01.648 (c):

5 AAC 01.648(c). Prince William Sound Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans

(c) Salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes in the inside closure area described in 5 AAC 24.350(1)(B) unless all other Copper River Chinook fisheries have first been restricted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulations set forth in 5 AAC 24.361 that restrict fishing in the regulatory closed waters specified in 5 AAC 24.350(1) (B) for the conservation of king salmon should only be applied to Commercial and Sport fisheries (5AAC 24.361 (b)-(c)). This area restriction has been applied to the subsistence fishery. Because the subsistence fishery is catch-limited (5 king salmon per household limit), an area restriction provides no conservation benefit; however, it places an unnecessary burden on subsistence users to fish farther out, especially those in river skiffs coming down rivers who are more suited to fishing more protected waters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Native Village of Eyak Department of the Environment and Natural Resources staff, recommended by the Native Village of Eyak’s Natural Resource Advisory Council and approved unanimously by Tribal Council.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak

(HQ-F24-099)
