

PROPOSAL 61

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

Modify the annual limit and establish a supplemental permit for the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

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(e) The total annual limit for each personal use salmon fishing permit is [25] **15** 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. **Supplemental permits for an additional 10 salmon for head of household will be allotted by EO authority if the in-river goal has a harvestable surplus.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The rationale to change the household limit to 25 salmon was in reflection of “like regulation” between the Upper Cook Inlet and Copper River drainages. However, the Copper River is a completely different watershed, and the historical PU bag limit was 15 for head of household compared to 25 salmon in the upper cook inlet fisheries. Currently the lower copper river subsistence fishery’s bag limit is 15 salmon. The increased bag limit was a reallocation away from the Commercial fishery in (2013). The past few seasons, this increased allocation has hamstrung the lower river biologist’s management due to less than stellar sockeye runs. The productivity of the Copper River differs from the Upper Cook Inlet systems; the bag limits initially reflected what the system could handle on normal run conditions.

The EO authority still allows for an increased bag limit when Copper River sockeye is in an above normal productivity cycle and there is a harvestable surplus.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed with other drift gillnetters in the fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Kalistrat Kuzmin

(HQ-F24-076)
