

PROPOSAL 68

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

Prohibit dipnetting from a boat in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 77.591 (c) Salmon may be taken only with dip nets **while not in a boat.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce undue stress on Copper River king and sockeye salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict

Being able to target holding areas during times of high water that are not accessible from shore enhances the ability to catch king salmon. Based on ADF&G data, average king harvest per permit from 2019 to 2023 is 0.4 from boat and 0.3 from shore. About 6,000 Personal Use permits are issued each year. Only one king salmon can be retained annually per household. Fishing from a boat increases the number of kings caught and released. En route mortality of king salmon due to catch and release stress is not documented and could be contributing to decreased escapements. Copper River king salmon have failed to meet escapement goals 4 of the last 10 years.

High stream flows have become more frequent in recent years, slowing the migration time by forcing fish to find refuge in eddies and pools until conditions are favorable for continued migration. Prior to use of boats for dipnetting, the salmon could seek this refuge in inaccessible areas to fishermen during times of high water. Now these areas are targeted.

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

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