

**PROPOSAL 71**

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

Prohibit guiding in the Chitina Subdistrict, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.620(x) Fishing guide services are prohibited in the Copper River Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery.**

**(x) "fishing guide services" means assistance, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, to a Personal Use Fishery participant to take or to attempt to take fish from a vessel by accompanying or physically directing the Personal Use Fishery participant in fishing activities during any part of a fishing trip**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Guided fishing from a boat is already not allowed in the Glennallen Subdistrict. We would like to expand this to apply to the Chitina Subdistrict Personal Use Fishery as well.

The Personal Use Fishery in the past three years has exceeded the allocated 100,000 – 150,000 limit with a three-year average of 163,989 (an underestimation, based on preliminary 2023 data).

Guided fishing from a boat provides expertise and allows targeting of holding areas especially during times of high water that are not accessible from shore and enhances ability to catch king salmon and sockeye 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 to 8,000 Personal Use permits are issued each year, many of which use guide services. 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 water levels have become more frequent in recent years, slowing the migration time by forcing fish to seek refuge in eddies and pools until conditions are favorable for continued migration. Prior to use of boats for dip netting and guided fishing trips, the salmon could seek this refuge in inaccessible areas to fishermen during times of high water. Now these areas are targeted by guides.

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

**PROPOSED BY:** Ahtna Tene Nene’

(HQ-F24-112)

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