

PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management

Plan. Amend the area open to dipnetting from shore in the Kenai River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.540(c)(1)(D) is amended to read:

(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:

(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

...

(D) from shore, in the area from ADF&G regulatory markers located on the Cook Inlet beaches outside the terminus of the river **to a line at the mouth of the Kenai River from No Name Creek on the north shore to an ADF&G regulatory marker on the south shore** [UPSTREAM TO THE DOWNSTREAM SIDE OF THE WARREN AMES BRIDGE, EXCEPT DIPNETTING IS CLOSED ON THE NORTH SHORE FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED BELOW THE END OF MAIN STREET, UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED NEAR THE KENAI CITY DOCK];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To implement existing personal use dip net boundary regulations near the mouth of the Kenai River, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) markers are placed on the shore line at the base of the north shore bluff below the end of Main Street, which is a short distance upstream of the Kenai River - No Name Creek confluence. Markers are frequently lost in tidal currents or removed by participants who fish above No Name Creek. Designating a natural/physical feature instead of a department marker will create a permanent marker to clarify the upstream boundary of the personal use dip net fishery. Participation in the shore-based personal use fishery in the area just downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge has increased. Use occurs on both the north and south shores. On the south shore, access is supported by the Kenai Flats Day Use Area operated by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DNR-DPOR) which is designed with 32 vehicle parking stalls. On the north shore, no designated parking is available. Participants in the dip net fishery access this section of river by crossing over, as well as fishing from, and staging equipment on, vegetated tide lands. Use of these lands for personal use fishing has increased to the extent that the number of vehicles at the Kenai River Flats Day Use Area parking area may often exceed capacity for the 22-day fishery. Often vehicles are parked in the right of way along both sides of the roadway, on both sides of the Warren Ames Bridge. Impact to the vegetated tide lands has not been assessed; however, it is evident that dip net fishing from the vegetated tide lands downstream of the Warren Ames Bridge may be negatively impacting the riparian habitat in the lower Kenai River.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-153)
