

PROPOSAL 212 – 5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons. Close the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Northern District on August 15, as follows:

Amend the Northern District season to read:

(b) salmon may only be taken as follows:

(1) Northern District: from June 25 until [CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER] **August 15;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Northern District commercial fishing season should be more aligned with the Central District

Eastside. A season that runs through August 15 provides plenty of opportunity to harvest Northern District salmon stocks, identified in management plans, to be managed primarily for commercial uses. A season through August 15 would still allow a substantial Northern District commercial coho salmon harvest, but would be more consistent with intent language contained at in the Northern District Salmon Management Plan:

“(a) The purposes of this management plan are to minimize the harvest of coho salmon bound for the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet and to provide the department direction for management of salmon stocks. The department shall manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses to provide commercial fisherman with an economic yield from the harvest of these salmon resources based on abundance. The department shall also manage the chum, pink, and sockeye salmon stocks to minimize the harvest of Northern District coho salmon, to provide sport and guided sport fisherman a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by frequency of inriver restrictions, or as specified in this section and other regulations.” Consistent with the Eastside Central District set net seasons, a Northern District season through

August 15 would allow harvest of commercial stocks through the heart of the Northern District runs. Closing after August 15, would better minimize coho salmon harvest with less economic impact on harvests of primary commercial species.

If the Board is concerned about reasonable yields for ALL Upper Cook Inlet user groups, wouldn't it be more consistent with Upper Cook Inlet management plans and seasons to pass more salmon of all species into Northern District waters for harvest, rather than running Northern commercial harvests into September and taking a high proportion of coho?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EF-F16-105)
