

*(Proposal 216 was submitted by two proposers. The proposal and justification were the same and are listed below, along with the proposers.)*

**PROPOSAL 216 – 5 AAC 5AAC 21.350. Closed waters.** Close waters within one-statute mile of the Little Susitna River to commercial fishing, as follows:

amend closed waters as follows:

(c) Northern District

(1) within one statute mile of the terminus of the following salmon streams:

- (A) Swanson Creek
- (B) Bishop Creek
- (C) Three-mile Creek
- (D) Chuit River
- (E) Nikolai Creek
- (F) McArthur River
- (G) Little Susitna River**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Little Susitna River sport fishery is without doubt one of the most heavily used and economically important coho salmon / king salmon sport fisheries draining into the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet, yet sport fishing opportunities and the economic benefit from those opportunities must be restricted, in part, because of liberal commercial set net harvest area near the river terminus.

Other Northern District streams, of significantly less sport and economic importance than the Little Susitna River, have one statute mile closed waters around their terminus', and within the Northern District Salmon Management Plan direction is given that: "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 fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions, or as specified in this section and other regulations."

It should be noted:

#1 The use of bait is closed by regulation in the Little Susitna River sport fishery from October 1 through August 5, and this greatly reduces participation in the sport fishery, reduces sport harvest, and retards economic impact from the sport fishery.

#2 ADF&G manages the Little Susitna River for king salmon and coho salmon abundance, and both species are noted in management plans to be managed primarily for sport and guided sport users.

#3 Even with a salmon counting weir in Little Susitna River, the department has no Little Susitna River spawning escapement goal for any salmon species other than king and coho.

#4 Little Susitna River is located further up Cook Inlet, so salmon bound for the Little Susitna River must already swim past more commercial nets than all the other Central District and Northern District streams which have one mile closed waters around their terminus’.

#5 Management of Little Susitna salmon stocks is primarily paid for with funds collected from the sale of sport fishing licenses, king salmon stamps, and federal matching moneys collected from taxes on fishing tackle, outboard motors, and fuel. In times of state economic down turn it is fiscally important to maintain or grow this stream of funding.

Therefore, to better follow Northern District Salmon Management Plan direction, to more equally share the conservation burden of Little Susitna king salmon and coho salmon stocks, and consistent with closed waters around other Northern District streams, Susitna Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee requests that the board establish a one statute mile closed waters around the terminus of Little Susitna River .

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee & (EF-F16-056)  
Alaska Sport Fishing Association (HQ-F16-002)

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