

1% Rule Explanation

What was the original intent of the rule?

- ✓ Originally passed in 2005, the 1% rule sets an empirical transition from commercial harvest of sockeye and conservation of coho based on abundance and run timing.
- ✓ Simply stated when the commercial harvest of sockeye in two consecutive periods are less than 1 percent of the cumulative harvest for the year then the management focus shifts from commercial sockeye to recreational coho.
- ✓ Amended by a Board generated proposal in 2011, a definition of fishing period had to be inserted into regulation so the intent of the 1% rule could be realized and not subverted by unusually long (multiple day) periods.
- ✓ In 2014 the 1% rule was applied to the Drift fleet as a conservation measure for coho salmon.
- ✓ As written the 1% rule it provides flexibility to extend the commercial set net fishery in years when large, late sockeye runs continue to produce significant harvest of this commercial-priority species into August. It does this because it is tied to the run size and NOT a fixed date.
- ✓ The 1 % rule is critical to the success of Northern District coho salmon conservation and passage.

Problems Along the Way

- ✓ After the adoption of the 1% rule, commercial fishing periods at the end of the season were opened for extended intervals spanning multiple days, to effectively avoid the 1% trigger.
- ✓ In 2010 for instance, continuous fishing periods of 63 hours each from Aug. 2-4 and Aug. 8-10 extended the season through Aug 12 when it otherwise would have closed after Aug. 8 under the original intent of the rule (see figure in RC 224).
- ✓ As a result, 5,667 additional coho were taken over three days to harvest 13,851 additional sockeye. The extension took 17% of the season coho total for just 1.2% of the season total sockeye.

What are the effects of the 1% Rule?

- ✓ Negligible effect on sockeye harvest in the east side set net and drift net commercial fishery.
- ✓ Significant reduction in coho harvest in the east side set net and drift net commercial fishery.

Submitted by Matt Su Borough
and Wildlife Comm.

- ✓ Increased delivery of coho to sport fisheries and escapements, particularly on the Kenai peninsula and to the Mat Su.
- ✓ Interactions with pink salmon management plan in rare situations of high pink abundance and low sockeye abundance.