

Repeal the stock of yield concern designation for Susitna River sockeye salmon.

Since the designation was put into regulation the department has incorporated studies and reviews to reveal that the designation was developed on a faulty sonar counting system. The data was invalid. Scientific data in 2009 proved that the Susitna River sockeye were never a stock of yield concern and in fact the escapements were not only being met but grossly exceeded. Large harvestable surpluses were and are still being forgone. The commercial fishery continues to be restricted because of the invalid stock of yield concern designation and surplus salmon continue to go unharvested by anyone. This is not sustainable and is not being a good steward of the resource. It is also in violation of 5 AAC 39.222. Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries, State fisheries policy, Article 8 of the Constitution and the Magnuson Stevens Act all of which require the best scientific information available in formulating fishery management plans designed to achieve maximum or optimum salmon production. The stock of yield concern designation has not and does not meet the criteria or definition as defined in 5AAC 39.222 Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries. It is suspect that the stock of yield concern designation has remained, since being scientifically proven invalid in 2009, for the purpose of special interest allocation agendas to keep the invalid commercial fishing restrictions.

Repeal the stock of yield concern designation for Susitna sockeye salmon