

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Member Johnson.
March 9, 2018

Draft Board Generated Proposal related to closed waters description for Tsiu/Tsivat rivers. This would repeal the new description of closed waters adopted in Proposal 165 amended by RC331 at the January 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.

Proposal XXX.

5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters.

Change commercial salmon fishery closed waters description for Tsiu and Tsivat Rivers to more accurately reflect current stream mouth location, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350 (a)(12) is amended to read:

(12) Tsiu/Tsivat [R]rivers: upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately [ONE-HALF] three-quarters of a mile downstream from Duck Camp Island, and upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one-half mile upstream from the confluence of the Tsiu/Tsivat rivers.

5 AAC 30.350 (a)(13) is repealed:

(13) [TSIVAT RIVER: UPSTREAM OF ADF&G COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY AT THE MID-POINT BETWEEN THE RIVER TERMINUS AND THE OUTLET OF THE EASTERMOST LAKE OF THE TSIVAT RIVER DRAINAGE.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted Proposal 165 for the 2018 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting updating the closed waters description to address geophysical changes in the Tsiu/Tsivat rivers that created a new confluence of the Tsiu and Tsivat rivers and significantly altered coho salmon migratory patterns. The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted Proposal 165 as amended by RC331 and the new closed waters description can be found in 5 AAC 30.350 (a)(13). In comparison to the regulatory language originally contained in Proposal 165, 5 AAC 30.350 (a)(13) reduces the amount of river area in which commercial set gillnet gear can be viably fished such that it may no longer be possible for the traditional commercial fishery to occur.

This proposal will provide an accurate description of closed waters based on current Tsiu/Tsivat river topography and will provide adequate river area to viably prosecute the commercial set gillnet fishery targeting surplus Tsiu/Tsivat river coho salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries.