

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.

Allow sport and subsistence fishing for nonsalmon species in the Toklat River drainage year-round, as follows:

5 AAC 01.249(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) from August 15 through May 15, the Toklat River **mainstem** [DRAINAGE] is closed to sport and subsistence fishing **for salmon between a point one mile upstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek at 64° 08.45' N. lat., 149° 59.69' W. long., and from a point at 64° 10.81' N. lat., 150° 01.03' W. long., two miles downstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 1993, the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan (5 AAC 01.249) was implemented to help rebuild the stock. In 2004, Toklat River Fall chum salmon were removed as a management concern, and a BEG of 15,000 – 33,000 was established. By 2007, the Board of Fisheries determined that Yukon River chum salmon (which incorporated Toklat fall chum salmon) no longer met the criteria of a yield concern, and in 2010 the Toklat River chum salmon BEG was eliminated from the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. Since 2003, returns of Yukon River fall chum salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal (300,000 fish) every year, and exceeded the upper bound (600,000) 10 out of 14 years. Currently, the closed period (August 15 – May 15) to sport and subsistence fishing of all nonsalmon species within the Toklat River drainage is no longer necessary. The intent of the closure was to protect spawning habitat from motorized and foot traffic where the RS2477 Kobi-McGrath trail crosses the Toklat River, and where the greatest concentration of spawning fall chum salmon occurs within the Toklat River drainage. This area will remain protected under the proposed new regulations. The current regulation precludes subsistence and sport fishing opportunity for resident species such as northern pike and Arctic grayling. The level of fishing effort is minimal and would present no sustainability concerns for salmon or nonsalmon species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-036)
