

PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods.

Allow subsistence fishing for fall chum salmon in District 5 without time restrictions if commercial fishing for fall chum salmon is open in other Yukon River districts, as follows:

5 AAC 01.210(d)(2)

...

In District 5 once the fall chum run is determined healthy enough to have commercial openings on it in other districts then no subsistence restrictions on days open should be placed on it. It is to be open 7 days a week unless a biological concern arises at which time fishing will be restricted or stop.

Issues of subsistence and commercial opening conflicts have never been a problem in this area but sometimes are a problem for other districts so for that reason we ask for this in District 5 only and will let others propose as they choose. Also we are only trying to increase opportunity in situations where it would not be detrimental to any species, so any concerns that the BOF or management would have over this proposal, TRM would be happy to adjust the proposal wording to meet those concerns.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 7 Day Fall Chum Fishing: Fall chum salmon fishing in this area comes late in summer. The weather is cooling and often the rains start making drying of fish difficult if not impossible on many days. Over the years we have tried to point out to management that the current reduced subsistence schedules of 4 days or 5 days a week that we find ourselves in, often do not coincide with days able to put up fish. This is especially true at the beginning of the run where the best people quality fish are found. For example we have documented times where fishers have waited almost an entire open period of fishing only to have the sun come out on the closed days. Fall season is too short and lately because of the king crisis it has become too important to lose opportunity.

TRM has repeatedly been told by some at ADF&G that while the proposal has merit and they try to open the season as soon as possible to 7 days they want to maintain the flexibility to open and close as they wish. At the last BOF meeting the State's own lawyer had to contradict ADF&G management by stating that no matter what, they always have the ability to shut down fishing if necessary. We are simply trying to get it into regulation so we are not at the mercy of different managers with different opinions on when we should be allowed to go to 7 day a week fishing once the run is being fished on commercially.

PROPOSED BY: Tanana Rampart Manley and Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committees
(EF-F18-046)
