

**PROPOSAL 191**

**5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.**

Eliminate the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, as follows:

In order to more effectively manage the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to meet sockeye salmon escapement objectives in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, I propose eliminating 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii) from the Fishing Seasons regulation.

[(III) KENAI, KASILOF, AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS: IN THE COMBINED KENAI AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS, AND SEPARATELY IN THE KASILOF SECTION, THE SEASON WILL CLOSE AUGUST 15, UNLESS CLOSED EARLIER BY EMERGENCY ORDER AFTER AUGUST 7, IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE SEASON’S TOTAL SOCKEYE HARVEST HAS BEEN TAKEN PER FISHING PERIOD FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS IN THE COMBINED KENAI AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS, OR SEPARATELY IN THE KASILOF SECTION; FROM AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15, THE FISHERY IS OPEN FOR REGULAR FISHING PERIODS ONLY; FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH, “FISHING PERIOD” MEANS A TIME PERIOD OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING AS MEASURED BY A 24-HOUR CALENDAR DAY FROM 12:01 A.M. UNTIL 11:59 P.M.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kenai and Kasilof river sockeye salmon escapement objectives are more often exceeded than they are met. Limiting the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to regular fishing periods only from August 11-15 and having an arbitrary 1% rule that further limits the primary harvester of Kenai and Kasilof sockeye salmon in August is punitive and foolish. I would like to see 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii) removed from the Fishing Seasons regulation. This would mean that the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery would be managed with the same provisions in August that they are in July. The department would use whatever hours they have based on the Kenai run-size tier to meet sockeye salmon escapement objectives in these two rivers. The closing date for the fishery would not change, it still would be August 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Every

(HQ-F19-015)

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