

PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Create a personal use dip net fishery in Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage, as follows:

The dipnetting area would be approximately 1/2-mile upstream of the Yenta to a department marker, from the confluence of the Yentna/Susitna river, downstream to a department marker approximately at the Northern most portion of Bell Island. The time frame would be 4 consecutives, 3 day weekends, starting from the 2nd weekend in July. The hours would be from 6:00AM-11:00PM. No retention of King salmon would be allowed. All Pike taken must not be returned to the water. Bag limit would be consistent with other south-Central dipnetting fisheries and use the same permit; 25 per head of household, 10 for each additional household member. The total household catch would be combined with other South Central dipnet fisheries to not exceed those household limits.

*****Since this is a new fishery it is suggested that reporting be weekly or bi-weekly, as per the subsistence fishery in the area. It would be somewhat safe to assume that attendance would be somewhat low the first year and to the fact that it is accessible by boat or plane only. This proposal is intended to increase opportunity, take some pressure off the Kenai/Kasilof dipnet fisheries and we welcome changes, if need be, to accomplish that.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are proposing to create a personal use dipnet fishery for the Yentna/Susitna river drainage, situated in the Northern district. Per ADF&G abundance estimates, on average, 360,000 sockeye, 200,000 coho and 800,000 chum salmon migrate through this section annually.

Since the Definition of a sustainable escapement goal, is per ADF&G, “a level of escapement that is known to provide for sustained yield over a 5-10-year period”. As such, “an SEG will be determined by the department and will be stated as a range that takes into account data uncertainty; the department will seek to maintain escapements within the bounds of the SEG”. From 5 AAC 39.222 (f)

That said, the SEG, set by the department, for Sockeye are as follows: Chelatna Lake is 20,000-45,000, Judd Lake is 15,000-40,000 and Larson Lake is 15,000-35,000. The 10 year average, per ADF&G is: Chelatna Lake-46,400, Judd Lake-40,600, Larson Lake-30,100 (rounded off to the nearest 100) FMR 18-10 Shields and Frothingham/Appendix A-12

PROPOSED BY: South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association (EF-F19-120)
