

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 77.682. Personal use salmon fishery.

Modify where personal use fishing can occur in the Taku River to include all of Section 11-B and remove dates when the fishery can occur, as follows:

The proposed solution is to provide ADF&G management with the authority (under 5 AAC 77.682) to issue personal use permits for harvest of Taku River sockeye salmon using gillnet gear in marine waters of District 111. Permits would limit the time and area so as to eliminate conflicts with commercial fishing and address specific stock concerns. The simplest solution would be to repeal 5 AAC 77.682 (h)(3) [(3) IN THE TAKU RIVER DRAINAGE, SOCKEYE SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY IN WATERS FROM THE TAKU RIVER LODGE UPSTREAM TO THE UNITED STATES/CANADA BORDER AND ONLY FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 31.] and replace 5 AAC 77.682 (n)(1) with **sockeye salmon may be taken for personal use in section 11B under conditions specified in a household personal use permit** [SOCKEYE SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN FOR PERSONAL USE], and except that in the following waters sockeye salmon may be taken with the following possession and annual limits:.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The accessibility, availability, and quality of personal use sockeye salmon for Juneau fishermen in District 111 is severely limited, resulting in the inability of many Juneau residents to realize a fair and reasonable opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon, contributes to over-escapement of Taku River sockeye salmon, and reduces the justification for current catch-sharing agreements between Alaska and Canada. Personal use fishing is currently limited to the upper U. S. section of the Taku River (above Taku River Lodge to the Canadian Border) and Sweetheart Creek, a small creek approximately 37 miles from Juneau. The opportunity to harvest returning salmon is seriously limited by weather, equipment needs, and competition with other users. Unharvested fish in the marine waters contribute to over-escapement (2015-2017 escapements averaged 168% of the upper escapement goal), failure to achieve maximum sustained yield, and possible detrimental impacts on production. And the inability to harvest U. S. allowable catch limits (the commercial gillnet fishery only caught a 2015-2017 average of 53% of the U. S. allowable catch) could result in catch sharing agreements being reexamined in future U.S./Canada negotiations.

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