

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Policy #79-51-FB

COPPER RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

See also  
#80-66-FB  
#77-25-FB

I. Introduction: The purpose of this policy is to insure an adequate escapement of salmon into the Copper River system and to provide management guidelines in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts over the use of this resource.

II. Copper River Sockeye Salmon Run

1. This policy will govern only those salmon which pass the sonar counters located at the Million Dollar Bridge.
2. The Commercial Fisheries Division will manage the Copper River commercial fishery to attain a total escapement into the Copper River of 350,000 salmon to insure adequate salmon to the spawning ground and provide for a recreational and subsistence harvest.
3. The Commercial Fisheries Division will manage the dip net fishery on the Copper River to insure adequate escapement by restricting the dip net harvest to the following levels based on escapement as determined by sonar evaluations and any other appropriate means.

	<u>Escapement</u>	<u>Dip Net Harvest</u>
*Under	150,000	Total Closure
	150,000 to 200,000	9,000
	200,000 to 250,000	12,000
	250,000 to 300,000	15,000
	300,000 to 350,000	18,000
	Over 350,000	Unlimited

- (a) When a total escapement size of less than 150,000 salmon is projected by sonar observations, a limited dip net harvest will occur before the dip net fishery can be closed by emergency order.
  - (b) If it appears that based on current escapement rates the minimum escapement goal may not be attained necessitating an extended closure of the commercial fishery, it is recognized that the dip net fishery will also be adjusted to achieve the minimum escapement goal.
4. The dip net fishery will be reopened if later sonar escapement projections exceed 150,000 and the harvest formula will be followed.

5. If the dip net fishery is closed because of an inadequate escapement of salmon, the fishery may be reopened September 1 for the taking of coho salmon, which constitute the majority of the salmon at that time. By September 1, the escapement of sockeye and chinook salmon has essentially passed through the area. Also by this time, the dip net fishery effort has decreased and constitutes less than five percent of the total effort on the fishery.
6. The dip net fishing season will be open from June 1 through September 30. This is the same season that has been in effect for over ten years. Only a few salmon are present before and after this season.



Nick Szabo, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Adopted April 4, 1979  
Anchorage, Alaska

VOTE: 6/1