

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 77.XXX. New section.

Prohibit guiding in personal use finfish fisheries, as follows:

Alternative one (preferred): Guiding of persons engaging in personal use fisheries shall not be allowed. **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercialization of personal use fisheries.

Personal use fisheries were implemented as a stop gap measure to actively manage sockeye salmon runs after the Exxon Valdez oil spill allowing Alaskan residents to harvest excess fish to maintain optimum escapement goals. Currently the industry of guiding this non commercial fishery is growing rapidly. Personal use fishermen do not pay for management of fisheries, and do not pay for enhancement of those fisheries targeting hatchery salmon (for example, Gulkana River sockeye, Kachemak Bay Coho/Sockeye, Fish Creek Sockeye) allowing persons to commercialize these resources paid for almost exclusively by commercial fishermen (some is paid for through sportfish funded programs) is entirely unfair to the commercial sector and sportfishing license holders.

Personal use fisheries have been entirely to give residents an opportunity to participate in subsistence style fisheries, feeding their families despite living in a non subsistence zone, they are not intended to be commercialized. Imagine a company in Glennallen charging money to operate a fishwheel for subsistence fishing.

Some alternatives:

Alternative two: Impose a fish tax on commercial operators who engage in enhanced PU fisheries based on the market value of those fish.

Alternative three: Impose a flat fee on commercial operators who engage in PU fisheries.

Alternative four (least preferred): Impose a fee on all PU fishery permit holders to pay for management and enhancement of these fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick P McCormick

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