

Existing EO Authority Already Provides Window Closures

A suggestion to mandate twice weekly closures in the Nushagak salmon fishery in June and July is unnecessary. By regulation the fishery is managed by EO authority. That authority equips management to respond to rapid changes in fish movement, weather, test fishing, fleet size, tender and subsistence reports, which accumulate literally by the hour and can change rapidly during the season. Mandating closures by regulation in the belief it would allow appropriate windows for escapement limits the EO authority of managers equipped with the most timely information on run strength, timing and other factors.

The timing of drift openings in 2022 show how the EO authority routinely included the very windows that were suggested. In the three days from June 28 to June 30, a total of 72 hours, fishing was permitted for a total of 46 hours, providing a 'closed window' of 26 hours. For the seven day period from 6/28 through 7/4, a total of 168 hours, total fishing time was 123.5 hours; 44.5 hours were not fished.

Date	Hrs. Fished	Sockeye Harvest
6/28	13.5	502,935
6/29	12	727,227
6/30	20.5	2,461,145
7/1	24	1,809,825
7/2	19.5	916,653
7/3	19.5	1,018,825
7/4	14.5	1,778,839
	44.5 hrs	9.2 million
	Unfished	(\$46 million
	of 168	Ex-vessel)