

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2018 Yukon River Salmon Fishery News Release #2

Board of Fisheries Actions: Yukon Area Regulatory Changes

Districts Affected: Yukon River Area

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) recently met in Anchorage from March 6 to March 9 to consider proposals concerning Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Miscellaneous Shellfish fisheries. Five out-of-cycle proposals were taken up for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area.

Public testimony and contributors to substitute language included fishermen, representatives from Kwik'pak Fisheries, Yukon Area fishery managers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA), Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA), and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (Commission). Representatives from several Yukon Area Advisory Committees testified and the board also received written comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff would like to thank everyone for their hard work on the proposals, thoughtful testimony, and for their efforts in building consensus on the substitute regulatory language.

The following is a brief summary of the regulatory changes that were adopted and will be effective for the 2018 fishing season. Fishermen should expect future News Releases detailing relevant gear specifications or other changes once the regulatory language is finalized.

YUKON AREA PROPOSALS

Proposal 230 passed as amended. It was submitted by the Loudon, Nulato, and Koyukuk Tribes. Substitute language was submitted by ADF&G after discussions with stakeholders. This proposal allows salmon to be taken by drift gillnets in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C during subsistence fishing periods. Drift gillnets may not be longer than 150 feet (25 fathoms).

Proposal 231 passed as amended. It was submitted by Kwik'pak and substitute language was submitted by Dr. Stephanie Quinn-Davidson representing the Yukon River Commission after discussions with the department, Kwik'pak, and other stakeholders. This proposal removes the mandatory closure on the first pulse of king salmon in Districts 1 and 2 and directs ADF&G to

manage the king salmon run conservatively, and only requires first pulse closure in Districts 1 and 2 if the preseason forecast indicates a poor run of king salmon.

Proposal 232 passed as amended. It was submitted by ADF&G and substitute language was submitted by Dr. Stephanie Quinn-Davidson representing the Yukon River Commission after discussions with ADF&G, Kwik'pak, and other stakeholders. This proposal specifies that if king salmon escapement goals are projected to be met, subsistence fishing is not restricted, and subsistence fishing opportunity for king salmon has been provided within the season, ADF&G may open a commercial salmon fishery (e.g. for summer chum, fall chum, coho, or pink salmon) during which incidentally caught king salmon may be sold.

Proposal 233 passed. It was submitted by Kwik'pak and a clarification map was submitted by ADF&G after discussions with Kwik'pak and other stakeholders. This proposal clarifies District 1 boundaries and specifies that during the fall commercial fishing season set nets only may be used in the coastal waters of District 1.

Proposal 237 passed. It was submitted by the Board of Fisheries in response to an emergency petition. This proposal removes the October 1 closure date for commercial fishing in District 6 and allows the season to be closed by emergency order.

Meeting summary, recorded audio, and meeting documents may be found on the Board of Fisheries website: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>

As a reminder, the deadline to submit proposals for the **next** Board of Fisheries meeting cycle is **Tuesday, April 10, 2018**. The Board of Fisheries will meet in Anchorage in January 2019 to consider Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Finfish proposals.

Any questions regarding these regulatory changes can be directed to either Holly Carroll (907) 267-2324 in Anchorage or Jeff Estensen (907) 459-7217 in Fairbanks.

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