

Suggested language for Proposal 300 5AAC 61.112 Establish an optimal escapement goal (OEG) for Deshka River coho salmon:

**Deshka River coho salmon spawning OEG 15,000 --50,000**

In examining where a Deshka River coho salmon SEG should be set using the percentile method at the 25th and 75th percentile there is uncertainty in escapement counts. Using a data set of only complete season weir counts from 1997 -- 2013 would result in an SEG of 15,000 - 45,000

However, using a data set that includes all season's weir counts from 1997-- 2013, 6 of which are partial counts resulting from loss of weir use during high water, would result in a higher overall SEG of 17,000 -- 50,000

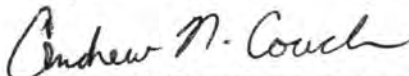
Normally one would expect using the data set that included partial season weir counts to result in a lower SEG range, but this is clearly not the case.

Therefore, because of this uncertainty, it is our request for the Board to adopt a Deshka River coho salmon spawning OEG using the boarder number set of all weir counts that incorporates a lower range bound set from the complete season weir counts, and a higher range bound set from the total data set of weir counts (both complete and partial).

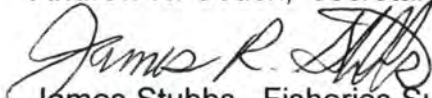
Deshka River is the largest coho producing clearwater tributary of the Susitna River and the only place on the entire Susitna with a complete season coho salmon weir count on most years. Even if this goal was used primarily as a post season assessment (like the Susitna Drainage sockeye weir counts) it would have value in that perspective. During very small or very large runs the weir could also provide some level of inseason fishery adjustment to ensure escapements within an established range. With the state spending thousands of dollars to operate a weir every year --- it only makes sense to get the maximum benefit of state spending through use of an escapement goal.

Submitted By: Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Supported By: Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee



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James Stubbs, Fisheries Subcommittee Chair Anchorage AC