

**PROPOSAL 109 – 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.**  
Modify Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan triggers, as follows:

5 AAC 05.362(a)–(f) are amended as follows:

(a) The objective of this management plan is to provide the department with guidelines to manage for the sustained yield of Yukon River summer chum salmon. The department shall use the best available data, including preseason run projections, test fishing indices, age and sex composition, subsistence and commercial harvest reports, and passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects to assess the run size for the purpose of implementing this plan. **Management of the summer chum salmon fisheries may be affected during times of king salmon conservation.**

(b) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is 600,000 fish or less, [THE COMMISSIONER SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER CLOSE THE]

(1) **the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the** commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum salmon fisheries;

(2) **the department may restrict or close the** subsistence summer chum salmon fisheries, except that, if indicators show an individual escapement goal in a district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict.

(c) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 600,000 fish, but not more than **750,000** [700,000] fish,

(1) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and personal use directed summer chum salmon fisheries;

(2) the department **may restrict** [SHALL MANAGE] the subsistence [DIRECTED] summer chum salmon fishery [TO ACHIEVE DRAINAGEWIDE ESCAPEMENT OF NO LESS THAN 600,000 SUMMER CHUM SALMON], except that, if indicators show that individual escapement goals within a district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a less restrictive directed subsistence summer chum fishery in that district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict;

**(3) if indicators show that individual escapement goals within a district, subdistrict, or portion of a district or subdistrict will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a summer chum fishery for commercial, sport, or personal use fishing in that district, subdistrict or portion of a district or subdistrict.**

(d) **Repealed** / / [WHEN THE PROJECTED RUN SIZE OF SUMMER CHUM SALMON IS MORE THAN 700,000 FISH, BUT NOT MORE THAN 1,000,000 FISH,

(1) THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, A SUBSISTENCE FISHERY WITH FISHING SEASONS AND PERIODS AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 05.360(d);

(2) AND IF INDICATORS SHOW THAT INDIVIDUAL ESCAPEMENT GOALS WITHIN A DISTRICT, SUBDISTRICT, OR PORTION OF A DISTRICT OR SUBDISTRICT WILL BE MET, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, A SUMMER CHUM FISHERY FOR COMMERCIAL, SPORT, OR PERSONAL USE FISHING IN THAT DISTRICT, SUBDISTRICT OR PORTION OF A DISTRICT OR SUBDISTRICT].

(e) ~~Repealed~~ / / [NOTWITHSTANDING (d) OF THIS SECTION, WHEN THE PROJECTED RUN SIZE OF CHUM SALMON IS MORE THAN 900,000 FISH, BUT NOT MORE THAN 1,000,000 FISH, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, OPEN A DRAINAGEWIDE COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO HARVEST UP TO 50,000 FISH ABOVE THE RUN SIZE OF 900,000 CHUM SALMON DISTRIBUTED BY DISTRICT OR SUBDISTRICT IN PROPORTION TO THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS ESTABLISHED IN (g) OF THIS SECTION].

(f) When the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 750,000 [1,000,000] fish, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a drainagewide commercial fishery managed to achieve escapements within the established drainagewide escapement goal range of 600,000 – 1,000,000 summer chum salmon. The targeted harvest of the surplus will be [WITH THE HARVESTABLE SURPLUS] distributed by district or subdistrict in proportion to the guideline harvest levels established in (g) of this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Yukon River summer chum salmon management plan originated in 1990 with abundance and escapement triggers based upon historical estimates of abundance and potential escapement needs. The department is developing a Yukon River drainagewide escapement goal of 600,000 – 1,000,000 summer chum salmon. Therefore, some modifications of the summer chum salmon plan are appropriate at this time. The summer chum salmon escapement goal is based on a stock-recruit analysis aimed at maximizing sustainable yield in the fishery. However, escapements as low as 400,000 summer chum salmon have yielded a sustainable population. The amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) for summer chum salmon on the Yukon River is 83,500 – 142,192 fish. Recent subsistence harvests from 2010–2014 have ranged from 88,000 – 127,000 summer chum salmon. Given that escapements as low as 400,000 have yielded a sustainable population, there could be some flexibility for allowing subsistence opportunity at a run size at below 600,000. There is increasing demand for summer chum salmon to supplement declining king salmon subsistence harvests on the Yukon River. This proposal seeks to provide the department flexibility to provide a subsistence harvest when the summer chum salmon run size is at or near 600,000 fish. Other uses, primarily the commercial fishery, would be allowed commensurate with the new escapement goal and providing for the subsistence priority.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-028)

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