

PROPOSAL 232 – 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Modify the Fish Creek personal use fishery to accommodate a new Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range, as follows:

5 AAC 77.540(d)(1) is amended to read:

(d) Salmon may be taken by dip net in Fish Creek only as follows:

(1) the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the personal use dip net fishery in Fish Creek from **July 15** [JULY 10] through July 31, if the department projects that the escapement of sockeye salmon into Fish Creek will be more than **35,000** [50,000] fish; **fishing periods will be daily from 6:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department recently recommended lowering the SEG for sockeye salmon from 20,000-70,000 fish to 15,000-45,000 fish. Under current regulations, the dip net fishery may be opened by emergency order between July 10 and July 31 upon a projection of 50,000 fish. This proposal would set a new trigger point to complement the new goal range, change the start date to align with historical run strength levels needed to open the fishery, and change daily fishing times to reflect what has been written into emergency orders in past years to spread harvest over the run.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-155)
