

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 01.647. Copper River Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Management Plans.

Remove the requirement to open the Batzulnetas subsistence fishery by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 01.647(i)(5) is amended to read:

(5) salmon may be taken only from June 1 through September 1 or until the season is closed by emergency order; fishing periods are **from 12:00 noon Friday through 12:00 noon Sunday from June 1 through June 30 and from 12:00 noon Friday through 11:59 p.m. Monday from July 1 through September 1** [TO BE ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER AND ARE TWO DAYS PER WEEK DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE AND 3.5 DAYS PER WEEK FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When this regulation was originally adopted the department was concerned that the Tanada Creek sockeye salmon return could be overexploited by a targeted subsistence fishery in this area. However, no more than five permits (either federal or state) have been issued in a single year since this fishery was established. The fishery is dual managed under state and federal subsistence regulations. Under federal regulations the fishery is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week from May 15 through September 30. No state subsistence permits have been issued since 2002. The federal fishery had a maximum harvest of 867 sockeye salmon in 2013 with an average harvest of 219 sockeye salmon from 2011–2015. Average passage at a fish weir on Tanada Creek operated by the National Park Service was 23,736 sockeye salmon from 2011–2015.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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