

**PROPOSAL 35**

**5 AAC 24.310. Fishing seasons.**

Open commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear in the Copper River District on the Monday or Thursday closest to May 1, as follows:

Commercial gillnet fishing shall be open on the Copper River on the Monday or Thursday which is closest to May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Consistently warmer spring thaws, harvest of fish under educational permits and reports of early harvests at fish wheels indicate that fish may be migrating upstream prior to the installation of the sonar counter. The commercial fleet over time is the most reliable indicator of run strength. The ADFG is currently unable to assess this indicator to assess early run strength.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert A. Smith

(HQ-F17-063)

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