

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 01.275. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.

Close marine waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to subsistence fishing during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

During times of Chinook salmon conservation, the Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like the Commissioner to extend the current regulatory boundary line located at the south end of Eek Island and just below the west point called Kookaq in the Kuskokwim River mouth 10 miles out, or as far out as the ADF&G authority, including marine waters in order to extend Chinook salmon conservation authority.

Suggested regulatory language: 5 AAC 01.275 (e)

During times of subsistence Chinook salmon closures, the commissioner shall close marine waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to address the conservation of Chinook salmon in times of conservation. The purpose of this proposal is to keep fisherman out of the milling areas during times of conservation. This proposal is to add new regulation, during times of conservation to continue setting conservation consistent throughout the drainage.

The issue is that there have been known Chinook salmon that mill in the brackish areas near the ADF&G regulatory markers at the Kuskokwim River mouth. Fishermen from many Kuskokwim River villages have been known to travel to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to harvest Chinook Salmon. There have been reports of Chinook Salmon being caught at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River in quantities of 80 fish per day. It is felt that there is not an equal opportunity for harvest of these Chinook Salmon when they are caught in this area while there are conservation restrictions in the river main stem. Therefore it is suggested there be a closure on these bodies of water that serve as milling areas for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-091)
