## PROPOSAL 115

## 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Allow subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in certain waters during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

## 5 AAC 07.365 (d) (5)

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, that portion of the Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers 100 yards upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, shall remain open to subsistence fishing with gillnets that are eight-inch or smaller mesh, with a maximum length of 50 fathoms.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kuskokwim River has experienced main stem and tributary subsistence closures in recent years in order to conserve Chinook salmon. The Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers are non-salmon spawning tributaries located in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim River and are important and traditional subsistence fishing locations for the residents of Tuntutuliak. People from this area have a long history of fishing in these locations for species such as pike, lush, chum salmon, and whitefish and rely on these rivers to meet their physical needs and to sustain their subsistence way of life and culture. With increased regulations during the Chinook salmon season these tributaries may be negatively impacted and could become closed to subsistence harvest of fish.

Since the Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers are non-salmon spawning tributaries of the Kuskokwim River, residents would like to see the subsistence fishing in these tributaries protected in regulation even in times of Chinook salmon conservation since Chinook salmon do not typically spawn in these locations. Keeping these tributaries open would also relax pressure on subsistence users when the Kuskokwim River mainstem is closed to fishing by allowing users to easily harvest other species in nearby tributaries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Closure of Kuskokwim River and tributaries in recent years. Pailleq, Agyaraq, Tuntutuliak, Kialiq, and Johnson Rivers are nonspawning Kuskokwim tributaries that are important and traditional subsistence fishing locations for the local residents living nearby the aforementioned rivers. With increased regulations during the chinook season, the rivers may be negatively impacted and could become closed to subsistence harvest of fish. Since these rivers are non-spawning tributaries, local residents would like to see its subsistence fishing protected in regulation, as stated in ANILCA.

PROPOSED BY: Qinarmiut Corporation	(HQ-F18-058)
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