

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 04.320. Fishing Periods.

Remove restriction on the length of commercial salmon fishing periods in Norton Sound Subdistrict 1, as follows:

5 AAC 04.320

...

In the Norton-Sound Port Clarence Area, salmon may be taken only during periods established by emergency order. In subdistrict 1, salmon may be taken during no more than two 24-hour fishing periods per week established under this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We propose to amend 5 AAC 04.320 so that fishing periods are established by Emergency Order throughout the Norton Sound District and Port Clarence District, including the Nome Subdistrict (Subdistrict 1). The department has incrementally increased the length of fishing periods from 24-hours to as much as 72-hours in certain instances in response to strong salmon runs. Nome Subdistrict chum salmon stocks have been re-built and are no longer designated as stocks of concern. Additionally, coho salmon runs to Nome Subdistrict rivers have supported record subsistence and commercial harvests in recent years. Substantial ground-based escapement monitoring infrastructure with several years of data have been established in the years following the adoption of severe restrictions to Nome Subdistrict fisheries. Commercial fishing effort is limited to a handful of permit holders and is expected to remain so. Removing the restriction on fishing period length in the Nome Subdistrict will ensure regulations are consistent with current management practices and give managers flexibility to set fishing periods that take run abundance and anticipated fishing effort into account.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-011)
