

PROPOSAL 183

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

Extend the Upper Subdistrict commercial set gillnet season to August 20, as follows:

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5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)

...

(i) Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August **20**, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; ...

(ii) Kenai and East Forelands Sections: from July 8 through August **20**, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this paragraph; ...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 2017 and 2018 saw extremely late run timings for both Kasilof and Kenai River sockeye. To the extent where in 2017, an opening was given outside the management plan on Aug 15; and in 2018 an opening was seriously considered as late as Aug 23rd. Particularly in light of concerns over Kenai River Late-Run Chinook and allocations to other user groups during July, it seems likely that set gill-net harvest may continue to be disproportionately weighted to after Aug 1. Extending the season in order to give managers more flexibility at allowing some opportunity after escapement situations have made themselves clear seems appropriate. Particularly since we have 5 AAC 23.310(b)(2)(C)(iii), the so called ‘1% rule’ already in place to insure an early closure if there are insufficient sockeye in the district.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(HQ-F19-118)
