

PROPOSAL 212

5 AAC 21.505. Cook Inlet Smelt Fishery Management Plan.

Eliminate the requirement to obtain a commissioner's permit for the Cook Inlet Smelt fishery, as follows:

Eliminate the requirement to obtain a commissioner's permit for this fishery. I think that it would mean the fishery would be an interim use permit. Change the requirement to carry a permit to only those participants making a landing. All other participants would only need a crew license. All other rules and regulations for this fishery would remain the same.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The UCI smelt fishery has been in place for over 15 years with participation for nearly as long. There has been an extensive stock assessment study done. We have a pretty good handle on this fishery and should not be characterized as "experimental" any longer. We shouldn't be required to obtain a special commissioner's permit. Also, the requirement that every participant have a permit card is onerous. It should be enough that the people that actually have a landing and make a fish ticket need to have a permit card. Everyone else involved should only need a crew license as with other fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Teague Vanek

(EF-F19-057)
