

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 77.007. Criteria for the allocation of fishery resources among personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries.

Establish a personal use priority for Cook Inlet salmon fisheries, as follows:

Give Personal Use equal status with Subsistence for the five non-subsistence urban areas. The general public has a constitutional right to the accessible fishery resource in the Cook Inlet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board to address Personal Use and to recognize it as a priority for the five non-subsistence urban areas. It should be given the same status as subsistence for rural areas when it comes to the salmon resource. In accordance with the 2014 ADF&G Subsistence Update Report, the Personal Use fishery took 0.1 of the total catch while commercial fishing took 98.5 percent of the catch. This is not in line with the State of Alaska Constitution Article VIII: Natural Resources which outlines the use of the resource, access to it and provides for the maximum bene fit of the people. The Kenai River is road accessible to the urban population.

In 2018 the Personal Use fishermen took 165,028 fish in the Kenai River while the Cook Inlet Commercial fishery took 18,921,027 pounds of fish in the inlet.

Furthermore, the Personal Use fishery was closed 30 July 2018 while Commercial Fishing was allowed to fish thru August. Note: 51% of the sockeye harvest entered the river after the Personal Use fishery was closed.

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