

Submitted at the request of Board Member Payton by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

February 13, 2020

Substitute language for proposals 215, 217, and 219:

5 AAC 61.XXX. Susitna River and Little Susitna River King Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

5 AAC 61.XXX. Susitna River and Little Susitna River King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The intent of this management plan is to describe actions that may be taken by the department under various run scenarios to better inform stakeholders of management actions on northern Cook Inlet king salmon sport fisheries. The department shall manage the Susitna River drainage king salmon stocks to achieve king salmon escapement goals by the management measures outlined in this plan.

(b) The department will release the annual outlook and management strategy, including any preseason emergency orders, for Susitna River king salmon stocks (Deshka, Yentna, Talkeetna, and Eastside) and Little Susitna River, to the extent practical, by January 1, during non-board cycle years for Upper Cook Inlet Finfish.

(c) If king salmon escapement goals have been achieved for a stock in the previous one to three years, and harvest under general regulation is not projected to drop escapement below the escapement goal, sport fisheries shall be open under general regulation.

(d) If king salmon escapement is projected to be near the lower bound of an escapement goal, or if harvest under general regulations is expected to drop the projection below the lower bound of an escapement goal, king salmon sport fisheries may open under catch-and-release or other restrictive regulations to reduce harvest yet provide sport fishing opportunity, if associated sport mortality is not expected to reduce escapement below the lower bound of the escapement goal.

(e) If the commissioner determines additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, use the following management measures:

(A) Deshka River: annual limit reduction; bait prohibition; harvest restricted to Saturdays-Mondays, catch-and-release on other days (one single hook only).

(B) Yentna River drainage: annual limit reduction; harvest restricted to Fridays-Mondays, catch-and-release on other days (one single hook only).

(C) Talkeetna River drainage: annual limit reduction; harvest restricted to Saturdays-Mondays, catch-and-release on other days (one single hook only).

(D) Eastside Susitna River drainages: annual limit reduction; close one or more weekends of fishing.

(E) Little Susitna River: annual limit reduction; harvest restricted to Saturdays-Mondays or Fridays-Mondays, catch-and-release on other days (one single hook only).

(f) If king salmon escapement is projected to be below the escapement goal, king salmon sport fishing will be closed.