

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
Subsistence Resource Commission

P.O. Box 439  
Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy.  
Copper Center, AK 99573

October 19, 2021

Märit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
c/o ADF&G Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Subject: King salmon escapement goal for Copper River

Dear Ms. Carlson-Van Dort:

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) met by teleconference on October 5 and 6, 2021. The commission is a federal advisory committee that represents subsistence users of federal lands within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. At this meeting, learned about a proposed change to the Copper River king salmon sustainable escapement goal as described in the Department of Fish and Game's March 16, 2020 Prince William Sound Escapement Goal Memo.

The Commission is concerned that the Department is considering lowering the king salmon sustainable escapement goal for the Copper River from a lower bound of 24,000 to a range of 21,000 to 31,000. Lowering the goal could mean that additional fishing is allowed and thus that fewer fish would enter the river or make it to the spawning grounds. The minimum escapement goal has not been met in four of the last ten years. The Commission does not support lowering the king salmon escapement goal for Copper River.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Stevens  
Chair

cc: Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Chair: Daniel E. Stevens; Members: Mike Christenson, Mike Cronk, Sam Demmert, Sue Entsminger, Don Horrell, Suzanne McCarthy, Kaleb Rowland, and Gloria Stickwan