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Proposal 229 is to offer increased opportunity for Alaskans in the Valley to harvest quality salmon for their families, thereby relieving additional pressure on the Kenai and Chitna dip net fisheries. An increase of fishable days compensates for the early portion of the fishery when harvest is nil to minimal.

The Lower Susitna River Personal Use Fishery forbids king salmon retention. If the Board is concerned about escapement of silvers, a limit on silvers can be set per permit. Dip netters have the benefit of determining what type of salmon has been caught before removal from the water, and thereby a coho can be released, if necessary. Smaller web size facilitates release and avoids gilling the salmon.

Since the Susitna River has no weirs near the mouth for timely run information, dip net fishers could report each day fished, what was caught and what was released. Since we currently report our dip net harvest online, the Department can use this data to manage salmon runs.

According to ADF&G, who are Neutral on this proposal, Table 229-1 (which is found within their Staff Comments) shows an average of 3,276 total salmon caught in 274 fishing days equals 12 salmon/fishing day. So, a few extra days of dip net fishing will be appreciated.

Thank you for your time and service on the Board!