

PROPOSAL 38

RC 059

RC 58

Proposal 38 – 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Change the opening date for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery to open as early as June 1, but not later than June 11...

The regulation that this proposal is changing was adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries during the 2011 BOF meeting and has been in effect for the past 3 years. During that time period sockeye spawning escapement figures from the Tanada Creek Weir, located just upstream from the upper most part of the Upper Copper River District, has seen sockeye spawning escapement figures that are consistently higher than those of the previous years. Our elders have observed salmon returning to streams that have not seen fish in many years. This appears to be strong evidence that setting a later opening date for the Chitina Personal Use Fisheries has allowed more sockeye to reach the upriver spawning grounds and fish wheels.

First run are King Salmon up the Copper River. Delay opening of Personal Use Fisheries will allow more King Salmon to reach spawning grounds. Every user group will benefit to keeping this regulation in place.

The salmon life cycle is between 3 and 5 years. More time is needed to see the results of this initiative..

We recommend keeping this regulation in place to collect more data and to have consistent regulation over a period of time.

We urge the board to vote NO on proposal 38.

Submitted by Ahtna Customary and Traditional Use Committee