

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Vice-Chair Jeffrey.

October 20, 2016

**PROPOSAL XX – 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery**

**Management Plan.** Add provisions to create at 50 hp motor restriction and vessel size limits in the personal use fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

(c) Salmon may be taken by dip net in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:

(1) in the Kenai River, as follows:

(A) from July 10 through July 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; the commissioner may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery to 24 hours per day if the department determines that the abundance of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon is greater than 2,300,000 fish;

(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that only one king salmon may be retained per household;

(C) from a boat, in the area from an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Kenai city dock upstream to the downstream side of the Warren Ames Bridge, except that salmon may not be taken from a boat powered by a two-stroke motor other than a motor manufactured as a direct fuel injection motor; **and with a motor, or combination of motors, having a total propshaft rating greater than 50 hp or a boat that exceeds 21 feet in overall length and 106 inches in overall width;**

(D) from shore, in the area from ADF&G regulatory markers located on the Cook Inlet beaches outside the terminus of the river upstream to the downstream side of the Warren Ames Bridge, except dipnetting is closed on the north shore from an ADF&G regulatory marker located below the end of Main Street, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located near the Kenai city dock;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The combination of large, inboard jet boats, boats with large outboard motors, and smaller boats with 50 hp motors (as required in the Kenai River Special Management Area) creates unsafe conditions while participating in the Kenai River personal use fishery. Reducing motor and boat size in the personal use fishery will provide for a more orderly fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Board of Fisheries