

PROPOSAL 232

5 AAC 05.360. Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.

Allow sale of Yukon River king salmon caught incidentally during open commercial fishing periods for other salmon species, as follows:

5 AAC 05.360 is amended to read:

(i) If the department projects that the Yukon River king salmon escapements are below the escapement goals or king salmon subsistence fishing is restricted in more than one district or portion of a district, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close a fishery and immediately reopen a fishery during which king salmon may be retained, but not sold; **if the department thereafter projects that Yukon River king salmon escapements will achieve escapement goals and king salmon subsistence fishing is not restricted, and the department determines that there are king salmon surplus to escapement and subsistence needs and the sale of incidentally caught king salmon will not have a significant impact on escapement or subsistence uses of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a fishery during which incidentally caught king salmon taken during the summer and/or fall chum salmon commercial fisheries may be sold.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan* does not provide clear direction and criteria for lifting a prohibition on the sale of incidentally caught king salmon. Regulatory direction and triggers for prohibiting the sale of incidentally caught king salmon in Yukon River commercial salmon fisheries are well defined; however, regulatory direction and criteria for lifting a prohibition on the sale of incidentally caught king salmon that is no longer needed are ambiguous, resulting in potential foregone economic opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game
