

October 12, 2017

Board of Fisheries Members,

My name is John Krieg, and I operate a commercial fish wheel in District 6. I would like to see the fishing period in this district lengthened in order to better utilize the resource. I will be submitting a proposal for the 2019 Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim meeting, but I would like to see if the board will take up this issue in order so that in 2018 the fall chum in District 6 can be utilized fully.

I would like to see the following changed;

5 AAC 05.310. Fishing seasons

Except as provided in 5 AAC 05.320 - 5 AAC 05.380, salmon may be taken only as follows:

...

(4) in District 6, the commissioner shall open the season by emergency order and close the season [ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AT 12:01 A.M.] by emergency order.

The reason that the request is being made is that the fall chum commercial market in the Tanana Drainage has changed from primarily a roe market to a dog food market and the buyers don't want the fish until the weather cools down so that the fish does not spoil. With the later warmer weather Alaska has been experiencing lately the manager's need more flexibility in the season closure dates so that we, the catchers/sellers, can meet the buyers demand. The run starts in August, and we don't even start fishing until around September 15 because we are waiting for this cooler weather so much of the run has already gone by and it is our understanding that at this time escapement goals probably have already been met in this drainage. When the roe fishery was more popular, there were many more wheels operating in District 6 and the wheels started in August, which is when the closure date was established for the drainage. Now that the fishery has changed, there are only four wheels operating in the district, and as previously stated the wheels don't start turning until the cooler weather of mid-September hits.

John Krieg
PO Box 56515
North Pole, AK 99705
907-699-6756

