

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Close king salmon fisheries on the Kuskokwim River by emergency order on June 1, as follows:

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(c) In the king salmon fishery,

(1) when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries **on June 1**;

(2) when the projected escapement of king salmon is within the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall open and close fishing periods, by emergency order, as follows:

(A) the commissioner shall close **on June 1**, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, to the extent practicable, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one fishing period per week for a directed subsistence king salmon fishery to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs,

(B) after June 11, fishing may be opened for commercial and sport fisheries to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs;

(C) notwithstanding (c)(2)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one subsistence fishing period per week with four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

(3) when the projected escapement of king salmon exceeds the drainagewide escapement goal range,

(A) the commissioner shall close **on June 1**, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, the directed subsistence king salmon fishery will be open seven days per week; and

(B) after June 11, the commercial and sport fisheries will be managed to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs.

(C) notwithstanding (c)(3)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one subsistence fishing period per week with four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ADF&G's Kuskokwim Salmon Management Plan requires the State to close king salmon fisheries in the Kuskokwim River drainage through June 11. This closure is achieved by implementing a closure to the use of gillnets. In 2017, the closure to the use of gillnets began on May 20. Few Chinook Salmon pass the mouth of Kuskokwim before June 1, and local people customarily and traditionally harvest other species of fish with gillnets, especially whitefishes and the larger Sheefish that are harvested with 6 inch mesh size gillnets. The Management Plan should have a June 1 beginning date for the closure so that people can continue to harvest fish other than Chinook Salmon in gillnets.

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