

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Allow subsistence fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River prior to June 11, 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;

(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, by emergency order, the commercial **and** sport [AND SUBSISTENCE] king salmon fisheries, and **in the subsistence king fishery from June 1 through June 25 the use of 6-inch or less mesh size gillnets will only be restricted, if necessary, during rolling closures implemented sequentially up the river in a step-wise progression consistent with Chinook Salmon run timing** [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, by emergency order, the commercial **and** sport [AND SUBSISTENCE] king salmon fisheries, and **in the subsistence king fishery from June 1 through June 11 the use of 6-inch or less mesh size gillnets will only be restricted, if necessary, during rolling closures implemented sequentially up the river in a step-wise progression consistent with Chinook Salmon run timing, 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.

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. There should be opportunity to harvest king salmon before June 11 every year.

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