

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Increase maximum gillnet mesh size to 8 inches in both subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries, as follows:

Increase net sizes to 8 inches for salmon fishing either for subsistence or commercial fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Net sizes, commercial openings. Find a fish buyer for commercial fishing. Only income fishermen get because jobs are scarce in the villages.

PROPOSED BY: Kasigluk Traditional Council

(HQ-F18-003)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Allow subsistence fishing with dipnet gear during times of king or coho salmon conservation, as follows:

Dipnetting will be an allowable year round fishery method on the Kuskokwim River, even in times of an Emergency Order.

5 AAC 07.365(c)(2)

...

(A) the commissioner shall close, 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, **the commissioner shall keep open, even during an emergency order, dipnetting as an allowable method,** to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dipnetters of the Kuskokwim River are requesting to keep dipnetting an open fishery year round in the regulation book. They specifically would like to emphasize that dipnetting will be allowed even during an Emergency Order (EO).

Dipnetting is not dangerous to any fishery. Therefore, not dangerous or harmful to Chinook Salmon. Dipnetters will be able to catch other species of salmon, while still conserving for Chinook to let go any accidental caught Chinook go, unharmed.

Allowing for a open ended dipnetting harvest method, even during an EO to close the fishery, will validate the opportunity for harvest. While still allowing conservation implementation to continue in preservation of rebuilding Chinook Salmon abundance.

This is an ineffective method for catching large quantities of salmon at once, provides opportunity for fresh salmon other than Chinook Salmon to be caught. Families of the Kuskokwim River, where dipnetting is effective, would have the opportunity to catch freshly caught salmon for dinner, some drying, and storing.

This method would greatly help out the Kuskokwim River communities. Even though dipnetting is not a custom traditional practice of the Kuskokwim River. Families can learn to use this method of fishing effectively. This method has been practiced by a few folks from the Bethel area and have reported to improving their skills at catching salmon. It takes practice, patience, and planning.

Many dipnetters reported were targeting whitefish and reds, letting go chums when they caught enough. One dipnetter reported that they were also trying to target silver (Coho) salmon and found dipnetting effective was also effective way of harvesting Coho.

The request is to also have dipnets open as a fishing method even during gillnet only restrictions on Coho season. Dipnetters wanted to emphasize that if they are needing more chums during the silver salmon run, they would have the opportunity to target chums and not Coho. This would allow for specific salmon target of a species than swamping a gillnet with unnecessary amounts of Coho. Therefore, families would still be able to catch Chum for dryfish. Chum is preferred salmon for dryfish during the rainy season, because they dry faster than other salmon species.

Due to the Chinook Salmon conservation restrictions, subsistence harvesters had to change their methods of gathering, processing, and harvesting of subsistence caught salmon. They were forced into these changes by Emergency Orders, Special Actions Requests, and Federal Management take over. Over the past 8 years of method change. It is time to change regulations that best work to the benefit of the people and the resource.

Dipnetting helps control how much salmon you need and what kind of fish you want to keep.

PROPOSED BY: Alissa Nadine Rogers

(EF-F18-028)

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:

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan

(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.

PROPOSED BY: Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-064)

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:

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan

(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.

PROPOSED BY: Alissa Nadine Rogers

(HQ-F18-065)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Allow subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in certain waters during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

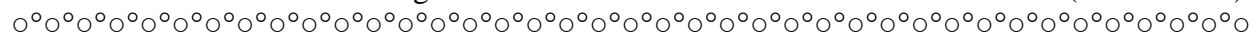
5 AAC 07.365 (d) (5)

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, that portion of the Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers upstream from a line between ADF&G regulatory markers 100 yards upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, shall remain open to subsistence fishing with gillnets that are eight-inch or smaller mesh, with a maximum length of 50 fathoms.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kuskokwim River has experienced main stem and tributary subsistence closures in recent years in order to conserve Chinook salmon. The Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers are non-salmon spawning tributaries located in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim River and are important and traditional subsistence fishing locations for the residents of Tuntutuliak. People from this area have a long history of fishing in these locations for species such as pike, lush, chum salmon, and whitefish and rely on these rivers to meet their physical needs and to sustain their subsistence way of life and culture. With increased regulations during the Chinook salmon season these tributaries may be negatively impacted and could become closed to subsistence harvest of fish.

Since the Tuntutuliak, Tagayarak, Kialik and Johnson rivers are non-salmon spawning tributaries of the Kuskokwim River, residents would like to see the subsistence fishing in these tributaries protected in regulation even in times of Chinook salmon conservation since Chinook salmon do not typically spawn in these locations. Keeping these tributaries open would also relax pressure on subsistence users when the Kuskokwim River mainstem is closed to fishing by allowing users to easily harvest other species in nearby tributaries.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Tuntutuliak (EF-F18-076)



What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Closure of Kuskokwim River and tributaries in recent years. Pailleq, Agyaraq, Tuntutuliak, Kialiq, and Johnson Rivers are non-spawning Kuskokwim tributaries that are important and traditional subsistence fishing locations for the local residents living nearby the aforementioned rivers. With increased regulations during the chinook season, the rivers may be negatively impacted and could become closed to subsistence harvest of fish. Since these rivers are non-spawning tributaries, local residents would like to see its subsistence fishing protected in regulation, as stated in ANILCA.

PROPOSED BY: Qinarmiut Corporation (HQ-F18-058)



PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Maintain open subsistence salmon fishing periods around the mouths of the Johnson, Kialiq, Kinak, Tagyaraq and Pailleq Rivers, as follows:

We are requesting to keep the mouths of Johnson River, Kialiq River, Kinak River, Tagyaraq River and Pailleq River open for subsistence fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The chinook fish do not go up these rivers to spawn and other surrounding villages come and fish for their subsistence needs in these rivers. When subsistence fishing, people do not over-catch but stop when they reach their own limits and it all depends on how big their family members are. In the past, Kalskag had made a resolution to close the mouths of these rivers, but we are requesting to keep them open as before.

PROPOSED BY: Tuntutuliak Traditional Council

(HQ-F18-025)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Allow subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in Pailleq Slough when the subsistence fishery for salmon is closed, as follows:

5 AAC 07.365 **(d) (5)**

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, that portion of Pailleq Slough upstream from a line 100 yards upstream from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River, shall remain open to subsistence fishing with gillnets.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kuskokwim River has experienced main stem and tributary subsistence fishing closures in recent years in order to conserve Chinook salmon. The community of Eek is located on the Eek River, which is a salmon spawning tributary of the Kuskokwim River. Pailleq Slough is located up river from Eek Island off of the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River and flows into Eenayarak River. During Chinook salmon conservation subsistence fishing closures, Pailleq has also been closed even though salmon do not typically migrate up these waters. Residents would like to keep Pailleq open to fishing even in times of Chinook salmon conservation.

Traditionally, residents near the Kuskokwim River mouth and Bering Sea coast, including the community of Eek, have maintained subsistence camps on or near Pailleq Slough and have practiced subsistence activities such as fishing and berry picking while living at these camps throughout the summer season. Residents harvest whitefish, Sheefish, pike and other nonsalmon species from this location. Today, the Pailleq Slough remains important due to its proximity to the community of Eek, its historical relevance, and its subsistence opportunities. People rely on this slough during the summer fishing season because it is much closer to Eek than having to travel south to the Quinhagak area, which requires more boat fuel and expenses, in order to fish. Residents depend on Pailleq Sough to meet their physical needs and to sustain their subsistence way of life and culture. They typically use driftnets in this location since setnets cannot be used due to the strong tidal action. Keeping Pailleq Slough open even in times of conservation would also relax pressure on subsistence users when the Kuskokwim River mainstem is closed by allowing users to easily harvest other fish species nearby.

PROPOSED BY: William Charlie Brown

(HQ-F18-078)
