

Purpose: To create a Personal Use salmon fishery for the Susitna River

Provide Alaskan residents an opportunity to harvest chum sockeye pinks and coho in the Susitna River in a well-regulated personal use fishery. This fishery will provide a much-needed personal use opportunity without having to travel hundreds of miles to Kenai and/or the Copper Rivers. This amended proposal captures the salient points expressed during the public hearing as the Committee of the Whole – Group 3.

Salient Points

- Escapement of salmon in the Susitna drainage is monitored based on one or two weirs, those projects inform management decisions.
- The only local opportunity in the Mat Su valley for personal use fishing is Fish Creek, a very small fishery, otherwise participants must travel long distances to Kenai Peninsula
- We recommend the Susitna Personal Use Salmon fishery be configured based on the following elements:
 - July 10 through July 31
 - Two days per week; Wednesday and Saturday
 - 6:00 am – 11 pm (why not simply make the hours 12:01 am to 11:59 pm)
 - Annual Limit as specified in 5 AAC 77.525
 - One permit per household per year
 - Total annual limit 25 salmon head of household and 10 salmon per dependent
 - No retention of king salmon
 - Pike may not be returned to the water alive
- Fishery assessment tools include weirs at Judd Lake and Deshka as well as fish wheels in the Susitna River
- Located on the Susitna from Susitna Station to Bell Island/Alexander Creek cutoff ADFG regulatory marker.
- Mandatory daily catch reporting

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan

NEW SECTION

(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net only as follows:

(1) from July 10th through August 15th, Wednesday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm and Saturday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm

(2) from a boat or from shore between ADF&G regulatory marker located 1 mile downstream from Susitna Station to Bell Island/Alexander Creek cutoff ADF&G regulatory marker.

(3) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that no king salmon may be retained and any king salmon caught must be returned to the water unharmed. Northern pike caught may not be returned to the water alive.

(4) a permit holder for this fishery shall report to the department as specified in permit conditions, the department may alter, time, area, species retained and limits based on salmon abundance.

(5) When the department projects that both sockeye and coho abundance will be above the midpoint of all 4 escapement goals: Larson, Judd, Chelatna Lake and Deshka River the commissioner may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery through August 31st.