

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 77.591. Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

Prohibit the use of depth or fish finders on boats in the Upper Copper River District, as follows:

No electronic devices that indicate bathymetry and/or fish locations are permitted on boats while they are participating in this fishery in the upper Copper River drainage from June 1 to September 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The use of electronic devices that indicate bathymetry and/or fish locations (i.e. fish finders) is contributing to unsustainable harvest practices on the upper Copper River. These devices enable fishers to locate and target specific holding areas in the river. Wild stocks are very vulnerable in these areas. These stocks are very time-sensitive and probably travel in small groups and use these areas to hold before continuing upriver. If we do not address this issue, we will continue to see our wild stocks and Gulkana brood-stocks not meet their objectives. The Gulkana Hatchery has not met their brood-stock goals for the past five years, and this is surely also the case for some wild stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Kirk Wilson (EF-F20-014), Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-033), Karen Linnell (EF-F20-121)
