

Fritz Johnson

Support for RC 205 “Additional Language For Proposal 126”

As articulated in RC 205, included below, providing ADF&G an additional tool and flexibility in dealing with an escapement shortfall in Ugashik is warranted. Having the ability to close Outer Port Heiden(OPH) to improve Ugashik escapement without enacting the Egegik area provisions described in 5 AAC 09.366(I) provides a less disruptive solution, impacting at most a few dozen vessels fishing OPH rather than the several hundred operating at Egegik.

Changes to regulations 5 AAC 09.366(I) (I) The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from 57° 05.52' N. lat., 158° 34.45' W. long. to 57° 08.85' N. lat., 158° 37.50' W. long. based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon. If the total season escapement to the Ugashik River is projected to be below the lower end of the escapement goal range [IF THE COMMISSIONER CLOSES THE PORTION OF THE EGEGIK DISTRICT AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.359(C) FOR THE CONSERVATION OF UGASHIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON STOCKS], the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden Section, and immediately reopen the Outer Port Heiden Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary