

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. and

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

Amend fishing seasons to allow more fishing time and area for set and drift net gear in the Caribou Flats Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310 (9). Caribou Flats Section: from June 20 to July 31 by emergency order if the season-ending sockeye salmon escapement goal at Nelson River is expected to be exceeded prior to August 1, fishing will be permitted with set and drift gillnet gear.

[5 AAC 09.350 (13). CLOSED WATERS. CARIBOU FLATS: WATERS OF THE CARIBOU FLATS SECTION;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Nelson (Sapsuk) River sockeye salmon escapement in 2024 exceeded the upper escapement goal by almost 4-fold with over 750,000 sockeye salmon escaping. This was the largest escapement ever recorded for the Nelson River. Past returns that have significantly exceeded the sockeye salmon escapement goal have caused poor future production and low returns of sockeye salmon into the Nelson River. The number of commercial salmon permits that are fishing in Nelson Lagoon has decreased substantially over the years and the effort levels are not capable of harvesting a good or strong return of sockeye salmon to the Nelson River. Allowing drift and set gillnet gear to fish by emergency order in the Caribou Flats Section when the upper escapement goal is expected to be exceeded would help control the escapement when strong runs occur.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen

(EF-F26-031)
