

A. Name, address, and telephone number of the requestor;

Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
1011 E Tudor Rd MS 121  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-891-9054

B. Each section and/or paragraph designation in the current regulations for which changes are suggested, if applicable;

Current Federal Regulation:

*36 CFR 242.27(e)(11)*

*(v) In the Upper Copper River District, you may take salmon only by fish wheels, rod and reel, or dip nets. In the Lower Copper River Area, you may take salmon only by dip nets and rod and reel. All salmon retained from the Lower Copper River Area must be reported to area managers within 48 hours of harvest.*

*(A) In the Lower Copper River Area, you may not dip net from a boat.*

*(B) In the Lower Copper River Area, the salmon fishery opens on June 1 and closes on September 30.*

Proposed Federal Regulation (addition)

*36 CFR 242.27(e)(11)*

*(v) In the Upper Copper River District, you may take salmon only by fish wheels, rod and reel, or dip nets. In the Lower Copper River Area, you may take salmon only by dip nets and rod and reel. All salmon retained from the Lower Copper River Area must be reported to area managers within 48 hours of harvest.*

*(A) In the Lower Copper River Area, you may not dip net from a boat.*

*(B) In the Lower Copper River Area, the salmon fishery opens on June 1 and closes on September 30.*

***(C) Dip nets are prohibited within 500 yards below and 100 yards above any salmon bearing river or stream tributary confluence in the upper Copper River***

C. A description of the regulatory change(s) desired;

Prohibit the use of dip nets within 500 yards below and 100 yards above any salmon bearing river or stream tributary confluence within the upper Copper River

D. A statement explaining why each change is necessary;

Closing these areas to dip netting helps limit harvest within sensitive areas which may be targeted for easy harvest and potential overharvest of salmon. This would protect stock diversity, a particular concern on streams with small spawning populations that can easily be fished out. While returns on these tributaries may be small today, the genetic diversity these stocks provide may be important for resilience and adaptation to environmental change. Some tributaries are easy to access by large numbers of fishers and are therefore fished at disproportionately high rates.

E. Proposed wording changes; and

Add the following to 36 CFR 242.27(e)(11)(v)

*(C) Dip nets are prohibited within 500 yards below and 100 yards above any salmon bearing river or stream tributary confluence in the upper Copper River*

F. Any additional information that you believe will help the Board in evaluating the proposed change.

Dip netting in the upper Copper River. If we do nothing we will continue to see our wild stock and Gulkana Brood stock decline. In some drainages that are very small we could lose that entire wild stock. Wild stocks are stopping and resting in these areas before continuing up river. The wild stocks are time sensitive and travel in small groups leaving them very vulnerable to over harvest in these areas. Remember these stocks are in some cases very small. There have been very little studies in these areas and there is virtually no data to support keeping these areas open until there is some kind of analysis.

Something needs to be done soon about this problem. I have done my best to write this proposal in laymen's terms. I could quote several sections from ANILCA that directly relate to this issue. Also there is very little scientific data on this issue.

The Council intends to submit a sister proposal at the appropriate time to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and asks that, if it is to pass, that the Board defer the implementation of this regulation until such time as the Board of Fisheries is able to take action on the sister proposal.