

SUMMARY OF MAIN FISHERY COMPONENTS AND POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

Overview

This document presents the primary components of FP21-10 and a range of alternatives for each component that are either already in regulation within the Copper River watershed or have been suggested by Council members. These issues and a range of alternatives are being presented to help the Southcentral and Eastern Interior Councils come to consensus on FP21-10, as instructed by the Federal Subsistence Board. This is to be treated as a partial list of both components of the proposal and alternatives to consider.

Total salmon harvest limits

Proposed (same as and cumulative with State Subsistence gillnet fishery in Prince William Sound and Federal Subsistence fishery for Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound Area)

- 15 salmon each for first 2 members of household, 10 for additional members

Federal Subsistence in the Upper Copper River District

- 30 salmon each for first 2 members of household, 10 for additional members; upon request, up to 200 (1 person household) or 500 (2+ person household) salmon total

State Personal Use Chitina Subdistrict

- 25 salmon for head of household, 10 salmon for additional members

State Subsistence Glennallen Subdistrict

- 30 salmon each for first 2 members of household, 10 for additional members; upon request, up to 200 (1 person household) or 500 (2+ person household) salmon total

Chinook Salmon harvest limits

Proposed (same as State Subsistence gillnet fishery in Prince William Sound, Federal Subsistence fishery in the Upper Copper River District (non-fish wheel), and State Subsistence Glennallen Subdistrict)

- 5 per household

State Personal Use Chitina Subdistrict

- 1 per household

Season Dates

Proposed (and approximately the same as State Subsistence gillnet fishery in Prince William Sound)

- May 15 to September 30

Alternative suggestion (to reduce harvest on Chinook Salmon, to reduce harvest pressure on salmon stocks bound for uppermost spawning locations, and to allow managers time to assess early-season run strength from sonar passage counts and initial commercial fishing openings)

- June 1 to September 30

Federal Subsistence fishing on the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound Area

- Open year round

Reporting Requirements

Proposed (and Federal Subsistence fisheries for the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound Area)

- End of season reporting by January 15

Federal Subsistence Fisheries of the Upper Copper River District

- End of season reporting by October 31

State Subsistence gillnet fishery, State Personal Use in the Chitina Subdistrict, and State Subsistence in the Glennallen Subdistrict

- End of season reporting and voluntary in-season reporting

OSM recommended modification

- Reporting within 48 hours of harvest

Alternative suggestion

- Reporting within 5 days of harvest

Harvest Methods

Proposed (and Federal Subsistence fisheries for the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound Area)

- Rod and reel, dip net, spear, and gaff

State Personal Use in Chitina Subdistrict

- Dip net

State Subsistence Glennallen Subdistrict

- Fish wheel or dip net – users must specify which one

Federal Subsistence Upper Copper River District

- Fish wheel, dip net, and rod and reel

Dip net definition

Federal Subsistence Regulations – 50 CFR 100.25(a) and State Regulations – 5 AAC 39.105(d)(24)

- A bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame; the maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed 5 feet; the depth of the bag must be at least one-half of the greatest straight-line distance, as measured through the net opening; no portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4.5 inches; the frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand.

Use of Boats

Proposed (and Federal Subsistence fisheries for the Chugach National Forest portion of the Prince William Sound Area)

- Unrestricted

State Subsistence Glennallen Subdistrict

- No commercial guiding – recently prohibited through Proposal 7 by the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Federal Subsistence Fisheries in the Upper Copper River District

- No use of fish finders while fishing from a boat (can be used for transportation) – recently prohibited through proposal FP21-14