

## **PROPOSAL 199**

### **5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Northern District king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon over the entire run as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. The department shall manage the Northern District for the commercial harvest of king salmon as follows:**

[(10) IF THE DESHKA RIVER IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE COMMERCIAL KING SALMON FISHERY THROUGHOUT THE NORTHERN DISTRICT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISHING PERIODS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS SECTION;]

**(10) If the sport fishery on the Deshka River**

**(A) is closed or if retention of king salmon is prohibited, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section; or**

**(B) is restricted to retention of king salmon under 28 inches or less in length as measured from the tip of snout to tip of tail, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, reduce the time allowed per fishing period provided for in this section to no more than six hours in duration.**

**(12) If the sport fishery on the Little Susitna River**

**(A) is closed or if retention of king salmon is prohibited, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the commercial king salmon fishery in the General Sub-district of the Northern District including areas 247-41, 247-42, and 247-43, for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section; or**

**(B) is restricted to retention of king salmon under 28 inches or less in length as measured from the tip of snout to tip of tail, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, reduce the time allowed per fishing period provided for in this section to no more than six hour provision in the General Sub-district of the Northern District including areas 247-41, 247-42, and 247-43.**

**(13) If the inseason Deshka River run projection is below the sustainable escapement goal; the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section.**

**(14) If the inseason Little Susitna River run projection is below the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce the time allowed per fishing period provided for in this section to no more than six hours in duration throughout the Northern District.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the *Northern District King Salmon Management Plan* to align paired restrictions between the sport fishery and set net fishery. Without direction within a plan, different conservation restrictions to different user groups unavoidably cause unequal sharing of the conservation burden. Perceived unequal sharing of conservation burdens has resulted in emergency petitions submitted to the Board of Fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-048)  
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