

PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 05.368. Anvik River Chum Salmon Fishery Management Plan. During times of salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, require fish wheels with live boxes to be manned and require immediate release of the specified salmon, as follows:

Suggested language:

Fish wheels must be manned at all times when any catch and release of king salmon or other species is required in an executed fishery. There is to be no livebox holding and release of species required to be not kept, river wide. (Note: This was written as to not interfere with more sound fish wheel release practices being considered at present by management such as live chute releasing of king salmon which does not use any live box holding methods.)

Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM AC) supported this proposal submission unanimously.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? TRM AC is concerned about present regulations allowing and further attempts to increase fish wheels as a legal means of targeting one species (such as chum salmon) while releasing another species (such as king salmon). Many of the methods of holding, release and equipment used are being portrayed as non-harmful ways of dealing with bycatch. TRM members come from an area of high fish wheel use and many are very familiar with the number of studies (mostly U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this area) done on fish wheel live box holding and general fish wheel operation and how it affects caught and released fish. We feel these issues have been sufficiently neglected in management and Board of Fish (BOF) actions in the past, despite the literature presented to them and concerns voiced to management, and at Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and BOF meetings, that a regulation against it needs to be clearly on the books.

PROPOSED BY: Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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