

PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 05.200. Fishing districts and subdistricts; and 5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters. Extend commercial fishing three miles offshore and north to Point Romanof in District 1 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

We recommend that the area open to commercial fishing be expanded to the 3 mile limit around the delta. Draft regulatory language follows:

5 AAC 05.200(a) Fishing districts and subdistricts is amended to read:

(a) District 1 consists of that portion of the Yukon River drainage from **the latitude of Point Romanof [ITS TERMINUS AT APOON PASS]** extending **south and** west [AND SOUTH] along the coast of the delta to the terminus of Black River upstream to the northern edge of the mouth of the Anuk River and all waters of the Black River.

5 AAC 05.350. Closed waters is amended to read:

Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

(1) repealed 4/13/2013;

(2) waters farther than **three** [ONE] nautical mile seaward from any grassland bank in District 1 from Apoon Pass extending west and south to a line extending seaward from an ADF&G regulatory marker located on the beach approximately one nautical miles south from the mouth of Black River[, EXCEPT THAT IN ACHARON CHANNEL OF THE SOUTH MOUTH OF THE YUKON RIVER THE CLOSED WATERS ARE THOSE WATERS FARTHER THAN TWO AND ONE-HALF NAUTICAL MILES FROM A LINE BEARING 285_ EXTENDING FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED BELOW CHRIS POINT TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE CHANNEL];

(3) all waters south and west of a line extending seaward from an ADF&G regulatory marker located on the beach approximately one nautical mile south of the mouth of Black River, in a northwestern direction to an ADF&G regulatory marker located **three** [ONE] nautical mile offshore;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We seek the Alaska Board of Fisheries to expand the area open to commercial fishing at the mouth of the Yukon River to include all State of Alaska waters, extending three nautical miles seaward, around the delta. Opening this area to fishing will provide better quality salmon for harvest, it will alleviate crowding in the traditional set net area caused by changes in the river mouth environment, and it will provide state managers options when/if the federal government prohibits commercial fisheries on abundant salmon species.

Please note that Kwik'pak Fisheries is also submitting a proposal to establish a directed commercial pink salmon fishery using four inch mesh gillnets. Because Yukon River pink salmon mature rapidly once they enter into the river, harvesting them in the ocean will ensure much better quality than harvesting in the river.

Secondarily, we would like to be able to harvest chum salmon in the ocean, also for better quality.

Thirdly, because of a buildup of silted in areas of the coast, set net fishermen have less opportunity than they have had in the past. This has been an ongoing problem due to shifting channels. Extending the area open to commercial fishery will help to alleviate this problem.

Other reasons for allowing commercial fishing out to the 3-mile limit surrounding the Yukon Delta are:

- It was the traditional legal boundary in the past;
- It would provide more room for set net fishermen, which has always been a traditional fishery;
- It would allow drift fishermen to fish in less concentrated areas during the compressed gillnet fishery openings; and
- It would provide more opportunity to subsistence fish.

PROPOSED BY: Kwik'pak Fisheries

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