

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. Angler hours have dropped by 80 percent and harvest rates are 95 percent lower than a decade ago. We are barely, if at all, making minimum escapements for kings on the Kenai and many other rivers in Cook Inlet. Although king salmon declines are a statewide issue, it is an emergency situation on the Kenai.

Therefore, I support the following proposals (please check the proposals you support):

- # 188: Early-run spawning escapement goal of 5,300-9,000 king salmon
- # 207: Late-run spawning escapement goal of 20,000-40,000 king salmon
- # 209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set-net fisheries
- # 11: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set-net fisheries
- # 169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3
- # 161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River
- # 112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set-net fishing
- # 156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set-net fishing
- # 248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set-net fishery closes
- # 126: Prohibit commercial set-net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- # 139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Deadlines:

Letters received prior to Jan. 17th will be included in Board packets prior to the meeting (preferable).

Letters received prior to Jan. 31st will be distributed manually at the meeting.

Obviously, drastic measures need to be taken to save our KINGS!

I consent to my contact information being included on printed copies of my comments.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. I appreciate your efforts to preserve this valuable fishery.

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