

Framework for alternative ESSN proposal for 2014 UCI BOF – for discussion purposes

OBJECTIVES for BOF, users, managers –

1. Increase probability of reaching LR Kenai river king goal [15K]
2. Decrease negative consequences / implication of going over Kenai sockeye goal
3. Provide harvest opportunity of all available salmon stocks for all users [not species dependent] and ensure burdens maximize objectives 1 and 2
4. Minimize confusion in integration of “data” from past that is relied upon or needed in future for management decisions
5. Adapt and manage harvest of sockeye salmon stocks along the eastside weekly in a manner consistent within the directives of three management plans.
6. Empower local managers with in season management authority; users know likely EO management tools – clarify EO tools to all users

Triggers

- a. Lower end of Kenai river king goal uncertain
- b. Projections of exceeding biological salmon goals will require use of available hours per week along the eastside.
- c. Predicting going near or over top of Kenai or Kasilof river sockeye goal in projections before and after July 20 -23.

Concept

- Predict not making 15K KR king goal after July 22.
 - o Options Available to Com Fish
 - Tuesday window goes away
 - ESSN EO hours remain avail or E.O. hours per week may be reduced, if necessary (51 hours / 24 - 36) and for management relative to Kasilof and Kenai river sockeye salmon management plans.
 - May open ESSN by statistical area. Stat area hours per week limitations consistent with meeting escapement goals and adaptive measures with quantifiable results.
 - 1% rule goes away
 - Or – calculate by Kenai/ East Foreland Sections
 - o Before KR goes catch / release in Kenai river consider other targeted king fishery reductions
 - Change slot limit
 - Change bag limit
 - No PU retention
 - Change days allowed, openings or hours on river
 - Close areas above Slikok Creek to protect ER and LR tributary and mainstem kings.
 - Add drift day(s) / cut 1 or more power boat days in river
 - No coho fishing above Eagle Rock (tidewater) from Aug 1-30
 - King counter stays in river to at least Aug 15

Critical Points

- No ESSN gear restriction
- NO experimental web net size reduction.
- NO experimental reduction on nets per permit. E.O. hour loss of one 12-hour period is measurable not experimental gear reduction.
- No paired restrictions
- Restrictions should maximize the ability to stay within escapement goals of all Kenai River stocks.