

RC 163

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Replacement Language for Proposal 296 - 5AAC 21.366 Northern District King Salmon Plan and 61.XXX New Section. Adopt a Deshka River King Salmon Management Plan:

The purpose of this plan is to conservatively manage Deshka River / Susitna River king salmon during times of forecasted / measured low king salmon abundance in order to attain established king salmon escapement goals, while providing a consistent and predictable sport king salmon fishing opportunity, avoiding inseason closure(s), or restrictions to catch and release fishing, as much as practical, through the duration of the season on July 13, and thereby, providing maximum benefit from the resource.

Preseason Step Downs:

When ADF&G's preseason outlook calls for a total Deshka River king salmon return less than 25,000 fish, the Susitna River drainage sport fishery may be restricted to one artificial lure with one single hook and / or may be restricted to a two king salmon seasonal limit starting May 15.

If ADF&G indices project a shortage of Unit 2 Susitna River king salmon, requiring restriction to catch and release of wild king salmon or an emergency closure of Unit 2 king salmon sport fishing, then Deshka River fishing upstream to a point determined by the Department, may be restricted to one artificial lure with one single hook and / or the seasonal king salmon limit may be reduced.

Inseason Step Downs:

(a) If Deshka River king salmon escapement projections fall below 13,000 fish after June 15, then the Deshka River king salmon fishery may be restricted to one artificial lure with one single hook, and or may be restricted to catch and release fishing, and or king salmon fishing may close upstream of Deshka River Weir.

(b) If Deshka River king salmon escapement projection falls below 13,000 after June 30, then Deshka River king salmon sport fishery may close through July 13.

(c) If less than 13,000 king salmon have passed the salmon counting weir by July 13, then waters upstream of the weir may be restricted to one artificial lure with one single hook through July 20.

Inseason liberalization back to standard Deshka River regulations may occur:

(a) when king salmon passing the weir can be projected to achieve a spawning escapement exceeding 15,000 fish on or after June 10.

Nothing in this plan shall constrain the Commissioner's emergency order authority to manage to attain established salmon spawning escapement goal(s).

Submitted by: Matanuska - Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission