

## Drift Boat Only- Day on Kenai River

*Submitted by Kenai River Professional Guide Association*

This RC provides information related to Proposals 237, 238, and 239.

Kenai River Professional Guide Association is **opposed** to additional Drift Boat Only days for the Kenai River.

### Lack of existing infrastructure

Currently the sections of the Kenai being considered for this action lack the necessary infrastructure in the form of bathrooms, shuttles and parking to support this action.

### Private Property Values

This action will diminish the ability of landowners who have property adjacent to the river to freely access the fishery at will. This restriction will therefore have the effect of decreasing the value of such properties.

### Cost to the private individual to participate

Drift boats suitable for the Kenai River are expensive. It would not be uncommon for a boat to coast \$10k to \$20k. When considered that most anglers may only have one type of boat (power) they will be obligated to purchase a very expensive piece of specialized equipment just to participate in this limited fishery. The cost will serve as a barrier to participation to many average anglers.

### No Biological Justification

The driving motivation behind this seems to simply be a punitive measure against those who access the fishery using power boats. This action will serve no measurable benefit to the fishery resource other than unnecessarily reduce participation due to previously mentioned barriers.

### Additional Miles are unnecessary

19 miles already designated drift boat only on Upper Kenai River. This proposal would add up to another 55 miles making the majority of the Kenai River Drift only. This seems to be a significant overreach to the exclusion of hundreds of anglers who may otherwise participate in a day's fishing.

### A Barrier to Participation

In addition to cost the physical demands of managing a drifts boat on the Kenai River serves to exclude anglers who are young, elderly and those physically unable to manage a drift boat.

### Will not measurable improve the quality of the days experience

Institution of a drift only requirement will not affect the active utilization of other power boats being used in this area. Power boat traffic related to non-fishing recreation will continue and constitutes a large amount of traffic.

In summary, proposals 237, 238, and 239 if passed will increase the cost to participate beyond what many people can afford, cause a stress on the limited infrastructure and facilities and will ultimately serve to exclude the elderly, the young and those unable to row a drift boat. There exists significant such opportunity already in other parts of the river.