

Current Late-run Kenai River King Salmon Restrictions

A large number of restrictions are already in place for this sport fishery.

1. *By regulation:*

- Single hook downstream of Skilak Lake.
- 2 fish seasonal bag limits (combined early and late-run / May - July).
- No guides on Sundays and Mondays.
- Drift boat only on Mondays, unguided anglers.
- Limits on guided angler hours (6 am – 6 pm; Tuesday through Saturday).
- Tributary mouth sanctuaries (Slikok, Funny, Moose, Killey)

2. *Within the Late Run King Salmon Management Plan after RC 151:*

- 1st step down = no bait
(likely by EO prior to July 1 - effectively reduces harvest by over 50%).
- 2nd step down = catch and release to assure greater than 15,000 if necessary
(likely by EO prior to July 31 - effectively reduces harvest by over 95%).

3. *By emergency order when at low abundance:*

- Middle river closure eliminates 60% of area open to fishing for king salmon (reduces harvest by approximately 15%).
- Prohibit bait and restrict to single hook downstream of Slikok Sanctuary from August 1 – 15 to protect mainstem spawning king salmon (cost of 50% of coho harvest potential).

A. Participation in the Kenai Late-run king fishery has declined by 65% as of 2013.

	Angler Hours	
	10 year average	2013
<i>Guided</i>	90,812	21,730
<i>Unguided</i>	81,235	38,180
<i>Total</i>	172,047	59,910

B. Management Plan revisions adopted in RC 151 will provide more commercial fishing time than was utilized in 2013.

	2012	2013	NEW PLAN
<i>Kenai</i>	60 hours	78 hours	144 hours
<i>Kasilof</i>	85 hours	140 hours	180 hours
<i>KRSHA</i>	Did not use	210 hour	No limit

C. Under this plan, commercial harvest of Kenai kings is expected to substantially exceed that of the sport fishery at the current Kenai late-run king run forecast (despite the sport priority for these fish).