

PROPOSAL 158- 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Modify the annual limit of two king salmon for the Kenai River to include only one large fish, as follows:

I recommend the reasonable and logical solution of implimenting an "over/under" annual bag limit for both early and late run kenai kings. Keep the bag limit at two per person annually, but only allow the possible harvest of ONE large chinook. Many anglers wish to harvest KR chinook for food fish and an over/under limit would allow for that. For example; anglers who harvest a 50 pounder and then days later harvest a 18 pounder have still provided for their table, but just as importantly, they have achieved several worthy goals. First, as mentioned above, they have possibly allowed a larger fish to reach the spawning beds but they have also spread the harvest across a broader range of age classes (thus stregthening the dynamics of the run) and potentially removing and NOT encouraging smaller fish to perpetuate the run. Precedent for this type of "over/under" management approach is already present in numerous fisheries. It is used in the relatively healthy Nushagak River king salmon sport fishery but not the struggling Kenai River king salmon sport fishery, which I find highly ironic. What legnth of fish would be allowed/protected is could be discussed and decided by The Board after the fact, once the proposal is adopted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An annual bag limit on Kenai kings that has not been changed for decades, despite suffering through what ADF&G calls a "period of low abundance" recently as well as trends whereas the legendary big fish of the Kenai River, specifically five ocean seven year old chinook, continue to decline. While managers may contend that they are not totally sure of the reasons for the decline of the big fish, one common sense fact remains: right now, every big fish that reaches the spawning beds improves our odds of this "big fish" resource rebounding.

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