

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Extend the start date for king salmon fishery on the Ninilchik from July 1 to June 16, as follows:

Because of the large increase in the numbers of hatchery King Salmon being released in the Ninilchik River, move the opening day of the regular hatchery King Salmon opening from July 1st to June 16th, to allow increased opportunity to harvest these fish, while they are available, and in prime condition.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recently, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has significantly increased the number of King Salmon fingerlings being released into the Ninilchik River, and would like to see an increased opportunity to harvest these fish when they return as adults. The current regulations on the Ninilchik River allow fishing for King Salmon for just three 3-day weekends, starting on Memorial weekend. After that last 3-day weekend, the Ninilchik River remains closed for up to 22 days until July 1st, depending on where Memorial weekend falls on the calendar each year. On July 1st, the Ninilchik River reopens for hatchery King Salmon fishing only, on a daily basis.

This long closure in June is a lost opportunity to harvest hatchery King Salmon on the Ninilchik River, when they are in prime condition, and within reach of the two mile fishing limit marker on that river. In June of 2015, the Ninilchik River was only open for King Salmon fishing for 4 days, and in June of 2016, it is scheduled to open for 6 days.

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