

PROPOSAL 101

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the preamble to the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* by removing minimize language and adding a provision for common property fishery harvest, as follows:

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. (a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TO MINIMIZE THE HARVEST OF NORTHERN DISTRICT COHO, LATE-RUN KENAI RIVER KING, AND KENAI RIVER COHO SALMON STOCKS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PERSONAL USE, SPORT, AND GUIDED SPORT FISHERMEN WITH A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST SALMON RESOURCES] **The department shall also manage the common property fisheries with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Delete unnecessary language in the Cook Inlet salmon management plans that restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real time basis based on in season abundance to harvest the surplus salmon. This language has resulted in tens of millions of harvestable salmon going unharvested and negatively affects the commercial fishing industry, communities, national food source, economies and also decreases future salmon production resulting from the effects of over escapement. The sports fishery has a reasonable opportunity for the fact that salmon run in the thousands of streams in the Cook Inlet drainage from May to October and most all are open to sports fishing. If one system is not open for escapement reasons a sports fisherman has many other system they can fish. In comparison the commercial fisherman, when restricted or closed down, has no other area to fish because they are restricted to the areas and their gear type by their limited entry permit they own. There is unfair and has no parity in reasonable opportunity between commercial and recreational fisheries under the current management plans.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-099)
