

**PROPOSAL 103**

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

Make numerous amendments to the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Change SEG in (b) (2) to 600,000 - 1,000,000 sockeye salmon

Add to (b) (2) ADFG needs to obtain funding when possible to put additional sonars between RM 48-50 and RM 78-80 so an accurate count of sockeye can be established on the Skilak and Kenai Lakes. A counter below RM 5 would help with catch data and real time management as well.

Amend (c) (1) At run strengths of 3.5 million sockeye salmon or less;

Amend (c) (1) (A) The Department shall manage for an in river goal of 800,000-1,000,000 sockeye salmon. When King Salmon need to be preserved, the drift fishery will be used first to manage run goals. Remaining should stay traditional. Department may use EO's to update real time run information.

Eliminate (c) (2) in its entirety.

Replace (c) (2) At a run strength above 3.5 million sockeye;

Replace (A) The department shall manage for an in-river sockeye salmon run between 900,000-1,200,000. When King Salmon need to be preserved the drift fishery will be used first if possible to manage the run.

Eliminate (c) (2) (B & C) in entirety.

Eliminate all of (c) (3) in its entirety.

Amend (h) (1) to read; Fishing will occur 7 days a week, from 7:00am until 7:00pm.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The tri-level of trigger points in this regulation for this or that, makes it almost impossible to manage a multi-use fishery. Time to make the process much simpler so the department can manage runs in real time, instead of projections which are now managing them. Good management requires flexibility. There is almost none in this regulation. A two-tier system would be much more efficient at making easier management practices. Management/Department has no idea how many spawners go into Skilak or Kenai lake. Only best guess estimates. By placing sonars between mile 48-50 and 78-80 would give us loads more info of how the run is really dispersed through the system. Over-escapement on the now more turbid Kenai is resulting in much smaller fry coming out of the Kenai Lake and River and much lower survival rates. The dip net fishery needs to have separate/opposite times on the rivers from the commercial fisheries, for safety, less conflict and easier management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark & Elbridge Walker

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