

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the season, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Clarify the fishing season for king salmon less than 20 inches in length on the Kasilof River, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122 is amended to read:

(8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

(A) king salmon [20 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH] may be taken from January 1 – June 30, upstream of Sterling Highway Bridge, and from January 1 – July 31 downstream of Sterling Highway Bridge; bag and possession limit **for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is** [OF] one fish; annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, except as provided in (b) of this section; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; from January 1 – June 30,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2001 the board created the statewide freshwater definition of jack salmon to establish a consistent length with a bag and possession limit of 10 fish. That statewide regulation is the default unless an area- or drainage-specific regulation changes it. The regulatory chapter for Kenai Peninsula 5 AAC 56.120 for Kasilof River establishes a season specific to king salmon 20 inches or greater in length. This has created confusion about whether or not there is a fishing season for jack king salmon. The department would like to clarify the language in 5 AAC 56.122 to reflect that fishing for jack king salmon is allowed during the same season dates as king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, therefore the statewide jack king salmon bag limit applies in the Kasilof River.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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