

PROPOSAL 169

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

Prohibit motorized vessels on a section of the Kasilof River January 1—September 15, as follows:

“From Jan 1 to Sep 15 motors will be prohibited from the ADFG regulatory marker located approximately three miles upstream to the start of Silver Salmon Rapids. Only non-motorized boats will be allowed from the Sterling Highway bridge to the head of Silver Salmon Rapids.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the last few years, the use of motors on the upper and lower Kasilof River has increased dramatically. Guides on the upper river are racing downstream in order to complete two sockeye charters in the same day. Residents and guides are launching at the bridge and powering down to the river mouth to dip net. Both groups are motoring through the same narrow channels that the second run Kings are attempting to use for their migration to the spawning grounds. As the Kenai fishery continues to implode, the Kasilof is experiencing pressure far beyond its ability to continue to be managed in a manner to provide a sustainable harvest for both Kings and Sockeye. The benefit to the motorized user group is far outweighed by the deleterious results accrued to the migrating Salmon. As pressure on the Kasilof increases, this situation will only become worse, and the time to address it is before the fishery crashes. Drift boats fishing for Kings are negatively impacted by the power boats, and it is only a matter of time until collisions occur if this situation is not remedied. The Kasilof is too small to allow the use of unrestricted power boats.

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