PROPOSAL 171  
5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.  
Reduce the Kenai River personal use bag limit for king salmon to one salmon less than 36” in  
length, as follows:

(1) in the Kenai River as follows,  
(B) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that only one king salmon, less than  
36 inches in length, may be retained per household, king salmon caught 36 inches and longer  
in length must be released

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Low abundances of “large”  
Kenai River king salmon trigger inseason restrictions to commercial, personal use, and sport  
fisheries. By management plan intent language, Kenai River king salmon are to be managed  
primarily for sport and guided sport use. In an effort to put more large Kenai River king salmon  
inriver and provide all user groups more fishing opportunity Alaska Sportfishing Association  
suggests limiting Kenai River Personal Use Dip Net harvest to king salmon under 36 inches in  
length. This proposal is a package with a similar proposal for Upper Cook Inlet commercial  
fisheries.

Harvest of king salmon under 36 inches in length would still be allowed in the Kenai River  
personal use fishery. Any king salmon caught 36 inches or more in length, however, would be  
required to be released. When salmon are being caught rapidly in the personal use fishery—this  
size limit has the added benefit of making it easier to identify (by size) those king salmon required  
to be released. With this size limit, the dip net fishery could proceed without emergency inseason  
restriction, and unintended violations that currently occur—when dip netters mistakenly harvest  
small king salmon (at times king salmon harvest would currently be prohibited) would likely  
decrease. Personal use fishery participants would still have the opportunity to harvest a smaller  
king salmon. All king salmon 36 inches or larger released, and escaping through the personal use  
and sport fishery, would count toward achievement of the Kenai River “large” king salmon  
escalpment goal. Therefore, escapement of more “large” king salmon helps maintain fishing and  
harvest opportunity for all user groups.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Sportfishing Association/Martin Meigs (HQ-F19-083)
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