

PROPOSAL 201

5 AAC 21.366. Northern District King Salmon Management Plan.

Amend paired restrictions in the Deshka River king salmon sport and commercial fisheries, as follows:

This proposal requests that the Board change section (10) to the following.

1. If the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is open to sport fishing, including catch and release sport fishing, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery shall be open unless otherwise regulated in this management plan.
2. When the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is regulated by emergency order to reduce sport fishing harvest through gear or time restrictions, the Northern District king salmon commercial fishery fishing periods shall by emergency order be 7:00 am to 1:00 pm on Mondays.
3. If the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is closed to sport fishing, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery shall be closed to fishing.
4. If the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery is reopened open to sport fishing, including catch and release sport fishing, the Northern District commercial king salmon fishery shall be reopened unless otherwise regulated in this management plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In section (10), copy below, the Northern District King Salmon Management Plan states that if the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing the commercial king salmon fishery shall be closed for the remainder of the season.

(10) if the Deshka River is closed to sport fishing, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial king salmon fishery throughout the Northern District for the remainder of the fishing periods provided for under this section; and

At times the Deshka River has been closed to sport fishing and later reopened to catch and release, which is sport fishing opportunity that results in king salmon mortality, however the commercial king salmon fishery is not reopened. This results in lost harvest opportunity on other Northern District king salmon stocks for the commercial fishers while the sport fishery is open. The current practice of allowing catch and release in the Deshka River while keeping the Northern District closed shifts the larger conservation burden onto the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet/Stephen Braund

(HQ-F19-060)
