

Kenai River Chinook Salmon Proposal 104



Kenai River Late-run Chinook Salmon Goals

- 1999-2012 17,800 - 35,700 All sizes of chinook
- 2013-2016 15,000 - 30,000 All sizes of chinook
- 2017- Current 13,500 - 27,000 Large fish

The Kenai River Late-Run chinook goals and plans have seen some **TREMENDOUS** changes in the last 2 board cycles. Lets see the effects of these changes before we completely change them once again. What returns will we see from theses Large fish goals?

Policy for Sustainable Salmon Fisheries

The Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries states when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on salmon stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in **close proportion** to each fisheries' respective use.

Average Harvest Rate on Kenai River Large Late-Run Chinook 1986-2013=30%



ESSN
7%



Total In-River Sport
22%

Average Harvest Rate on Kenai River Large Late-Run Chinook 2014-2019=21%



ESSN
8%



Total In-River Sport
14%

2014				
Date	In-River King Fishery	Kasilof Section	Kenai Section	Paired restrictions
Jun 22- 28		30 of 72	Closed	No paired restrictions
Jun 29- July 5	No Bait July 1	37 of 84	Closed	paired restrictions
July 6- 12	No Bait	30 of 36	12 of 36	paired restrictions
July 13-19	No Bait	21 of 36	12 of 36	paired restrictions
July 20-26	No retention	12 of 12	12 of 12	paired restrictions
July 27-31	Closed	Closed	Closed	paired restrictions
Aug 1-15	Season Over	24 of 36	36 of 36	Out of Paired Restrictions

2015				
Date	In-River King Fishery	Kasilof Section	Kenai Section	Paired restrictions
Jun 21-27		36 of 72	Closed	No paired restrictions
Jun 28- July 4	No Bait July 1	39 of 84	Closed	paired restrictions
July 5-11	No Bait	35 of 36	12 of 36	paired restrictions
July 12-18	No Bait	36 of 36	12 of 36	paired restrictions
July 19-25	Bait	Out of Paired Restrictio	Out of Paired Restrictions	

2018				
Date	In-River King Fishery	Kasilof Section	Kenai Section	Paired restrictions
Jun 24-30		38 of 72	Closed	No paired restrictions
July 1-7	No Bait July 1	24 of 48	Closed	paired restrictions
July 8-14	No Bait	36 of 48	24 of 48	paired restrictions
July 15-21	No Bait	24 of 24	12 of 24	paired restrictions
July 22-28	No retention	12 of 24	12 of 24	paired restrictions
July 29-Aug 4	Closed	0 of 24-	CLOSED	paired restrictions
Aug 5-11	Season Over	0 of 48	0 of 48	Out of Paired Restrictions
Aug 12-15	Season Over	0 of 24- CLC	0 of 24	Out of Paired Restrictions

2019				
Date	In-River King Fishery	Kasilof Section	Kenai Section	Paired restrictions
Jun 23- 29		12 of 72 ^a	Closed	No paired restrictions
Jun 30-July 6	No Bait July 1	26 of 48	Closed	paired restrictions
July 7-13	No Bait	43 of 48	31 of 48	paired restrictions
July 14-20	No Bait	29 of 48	29 of 48	paired restrictions
July 21-27	No Bait	46 of 48	32 of 48	paired restrictions
July 28- Aug 3 ^b	No Bait	48 of 48	48 of 48	paired restrictions
Aug 4-10	Season Over	0 of 75	0 of 75	Out of Paired Restrictions
Aug 11-15	Season Over	0 of 24	0 of 24	Out of Paired Restrictions
^a Season opened July 27				
^b Paired Restrictions through 8/1				

Since paired restrictions have gone into place in 2014, **ONE** week a season, ADF&G has used the full allotted hours under the paired restriction plan.

Proposal 104- Adopt an optimal escapement goal and amend the paired restrictions in the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan

In Summary:

- Run reconstruction data suggests establishing an OEG greater than the current SEG increases the probability of reducing yields. **Why would we want this?**
- ADF&G currently manages Late-Run Chinook very conservatively. Full allotted hours in ESSN are RARELY used, harvest rate drops from average of 30% with full fisheries to 21% sometimes down to 3% in times of low abundance.
- ESSN have shouldered the burden of conservation with 3-5 day seasons while the In-River Targeted king fishery is able to prosecute a full fishery all season in some fashion.
- Let's give the changes that have occurred to the Late-Run Chinook goals and plans in the last 2 board cycles some time to work before drastically changing them once again.

FUTURE GENERATIONS



We will continue to work with In-River user groups to ensure that the fish entering the rivers are harvested responsibly and sustainably.



Healthy limits on every user group will ensure there will be healthy sustainable fisheries for generations to come. By forming partnerships between user groups through open dialog and collaboration, we can protect our resource while enjoying its many benefits well into the future.



Eastside setnetters will step forward to work collaboratively to repair the contentious environment that surrounds Upper Cook Inlet Fisheries. We look forward to other users joining the conversation. The next generation and our State of Alaska deserve respectful dialog in the search for collaborative solutions.

LETTER TO ERIN

I have fished every Upper Cook Inlet salmon season of my life. Forty-five years, minus however long I was in diapers. I have never lived without fishing. I have never lived without fish.

Seasons have been bountiful. Nets sunk. Fighting against wind and tide and regulations to get our gear in on time. Long hours spent bent over picking sockeye after sockeye until my hands were sore, my back was sore, my being was sore — and I smiled. It was the best kind of sore. Seasons have been bleak. Waterhauls and a narrative running from, “it’s still early,” to “everything is running late this year,” to “well, there’s always next year.”

Good years or bad, it has all been satisfying. Fishing is not just something I do, it is who I am. It is my passion. And my identity. Political pressures grew along with the population. Our voice doesn’t carry. What does this one little fishery matter? But to those of us who grew up in it, those whose families have fished these beaches since the Territorial days of Alaska, it seems like everything.

Most of us work other jobs in the off-season. I strove to become a veterinarian, and it is a profession I am extremely proud of. I love my work, yet here is the difference. I became a veterinarian. I was born a fisherman. People ask what it is like, being a woman commercial fisherman. I tell them I don’t know. I am not trying to be cryptic; the truth is, I knew I was a fisherman before I knew I was a woman.

I am not naive. I see the handwriting on the wall. One of these days, my fishery will merely be a small anecdote in Alaskan history. My most terrifying day of fishing hasn’t happened yet. But I fear it is close. The day they close our fishery, the day I have to figure out who I am when I am not a fisherman... That will be my most terrifying day.