

PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan. and 5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.

Amend the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* to manage for a resident priority by implementing closed periods and reducing bag limits for nonresidents, as follows:

In the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 47.055), include the existing language in subsection (h)(5) in subsections (f) and (g) as well.

The language in (h)(5) is as follows:

“(5) If the department projects that the king salmon sport allocation is going to be exceeded, the department shall, by emergency order, adjust the nonresident seasons and bag limits so that there are no closures for residents.”

This language is intended to replace the language in subsections (f)(6) and (g)(4).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board has protected the resident king salmon fishery in Southeast by providing in the management plan for uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon and minimizing regulatory restrictions on resident anglers (5 AAC 47.055(b)(2) and (3)). The above language will further protect the resident fishery at the lowest abundance indices. The language already exists at the lowest index (section (h)(5)) and needs to be clarified for the next two indices above that level, or could be made to apply to all indices.

The biggest threat to the resident king salmon fishery is if the fast growing nonresident or guided sector catches the entire sport quota in June which would close the resident fishery, a scenario not anticipated when the plan was written. If this proposal is adopted, the only way the resident fishery could close for allocation purposes is because of management error, a rare probability.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.

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