

**PROPOSAL 86**

**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:)

5 AAC 47.055

(x) if the department projects that the king salmon sport harvest 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.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Clarify in this plan that the resident marine sport fishery does not close for allocation purposes, and that the nonresident sport fishery will be managed to achieve that continuity. The Board has protected the resident marine sport fishery in the management plan because that is the only means residents can take king salmon for food. There are no subsistence king salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska except for a small section of the Chilkat River near the village of Klukwan. There are no personal use king salmon fisheries in Southeast. All freshwaters are closed to sport fishing for king salmon in this region. Salt water sport fishing is the only means for residents to access the resource. The only threat to the resident fishery is if the nonresident fishery (primarily in outside waters) takes the entire sport quota in June. This would result in closing the resident fishery as well, a scenario that is possible during low abundance years. Residents would be denied the opportunity to catch king salmon in July, August and September because of the excessive nonresident take in June. This was not foreseen when the plan was adopted and needs to be rectified.

At any abundance index, even the lowest one in the plan, there is always enough king salmon available to provide for a resident fishery plus enough left over to support a limited nonresident fishery as well. Nonresidents currently take about 2/3 of the sport quota. There is no need for the resident food fishery to close unless all sport and commercial fisheries are closed for conservation reasons. Residents support the spring conservation closures for our local spawning stocks, but would hate to lose the summer fishery for feeder king salmon due to overfishing by the nonresident sector. The suggested language to achieve these ends is the same as the language already in subsection (h)(5) of the plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Hoffman

(HQ-F20-113)

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