

**Submitted by Board Member Carpenter, prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game<sup>i</sup>.**

November 29, 2023

Substitute language for proposal #13:

**5 AAC 56.xxx. Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River king salmon sport fisheries management plan.**

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to direct the department in the management of sport fisheries for king salmon stocks in Anchor River, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River using the Anchor River preseason forecast and inseason projections from the Anchor River and Ninilchik River salmon department monitoring projects.

(b) The department shall manage the sport fisheries in each drainage to achieve the sustainable escapement goal established for each of the three stocks, while providing sustainable fishing opportunities and maximizing the harvest of hatchery king salmon. The Ninilchik River will also be managed to prioritize collecting naturally-produced king salmon as defined in 5 AAC 56.122(c)(4) and hatchery broodstock.

(c) In Anchor River and Deep Creek,

(1) the area, seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for king salmon are described in 5 AAC 56.122;

(2) if the Anchor River preseason forecast is less than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 – 6,400 fish, the Anchor River and Deep Creek shall be closed to sport fishing during the season specified in 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(2)(E) and (a)(5)(D), **and from July 1 – July 15**;

(3) if the Anchor River preseason forecast is greater than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 – 6,400 fish and less than 4,800 fish, the sport fishery for king salmon in the Anchor River and Deep Creek shall be closed to the retention of king salmon and gear shall be restricted to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure;

(4) if the Anchor River preseason forecast is greater than 4,800 fish, the sport fishery for king salmon in the Anchor River and Deep Creek may open as described in 5 AAC 56.122;

(5) if the Anchor River inseason projection is less than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 – 6,400 fish after June 1, the Anchor River and Deep Creek shall be closed to sport fishing during the season specified in 5 AAC 56.122 (a)(2)(E) and (a)(5)(D), **and from July 1 – July 15**;

(6) if the Anchor River inseason projection is greater than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 – 6,400 fish and less than 4,800 fish after June 1, the Anchor River and Deep Creek shall be closed to the retention of king salmon and gear shall be restricted to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure;

(7) if the Anchor River inseason projection is greater than 4,800 fish after June 1, the sport fishery for king salmon in the Anchor River and Deep Creek may open as described in 5 AAC 56.122.

**(d) In the Ninilchik River,**

**(1) the area, seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for king salmon are described in 5 AAC 56.122;**

**(2) the Ninilchik River is closed to the retention of naturally-produced king salmon, as defined in 5 AAC 56.122(c)(4) until the inseason projection is greater than the number of naturally-produced king salmon needed to meet the SEG and broodstock collection goals of this section; if the projection is greater than the number of naturally-produced king salmon needed to meet the SEG and broodstock collection goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, liberalize the naturally-produced king salmon sport fishery;**

**(3) the commissioner may, by emergency order, further liberalize or restrict the Ninilchik River hatchery king salmon sport fishery to provide more harvest opportunity or achieve the SEG and broodstock collection goals.**

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<sup>i</sup> Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.