

Proposed Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Stock of Concern Action Plan**Submitted by: Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association**

Allow restrictive ESSN opportunity while in the Stock of Concern Plan when preseason and inseason projections of Kenai River king salmon escapement are above 13,500 large fish.

When the preseason projection from June 20-July 27, (midpoint), or in season projection from July 28-August 15, of Kenai River large king salmon escapement as defined below is within the SEG (13,500–27,000 large fish) but below the OEG (15,000–30,000 large fish), the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery (ESSN fishery) shall be opened as follows between June 20 and August 15:

From June 20-June 30 in the Kasilof Section

If the Kenai River late-run king salmon preseason projection is within 13,500–15,000 large fish, in the set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District the Department shall

- commercial set net fishing shall be open for three (3) 8-hour periods, centered on high water, based on abundance, for a total of 24 hours
- establish legal gear in commercial fishing periods under this section by restricting gear to 1 set gillnet that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth
- full retention and reporting of all dead king salmon is required on a fish ticket
- mandatory release of all live viable king salmon
- fishery openings will be based around prescribed tides based upon Seldovia District Tide Tables as follows: Ninilchik River Mouth to Kasilof River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-21, 244-22), Kasilof River Mouth to Kenai River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-31)*
- closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday

From July 1-July 14 All Sections-ESSN Harvest Break**From July 15-July 27 in the Kasilof Section and Kenai Section**

If the Kenai River late-run king salmon preseason projection is within 13,500–15,000 large fish, in the set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District the Department shall

- commercial set net fishing shall be open for, four (4) 8-hour periods, centered on high water, based on abundance, for a total of 32 hours.
- establish legal gear in commercial fishing periods under this section by restricting gear to 1 set gillnet that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth
- full retention and reporting of all dead king salmon is required on a fish ticket
- mandatory release of all live viable king salmon

- fishery openings will be based around prescribed tides based upon Seldovia District Tide Tables as follows: Ninilchik River Mouth to Kasilof River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-21, 244-22), Kasilof River Mouth to Kenai River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-31, 244-32), Kenai River Mouth to Boulder Point (Stat Areas 244-41, 244-42)*
- closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday

From July 28-August 15 In the Kasilof Section and Kenai Section

If the Kenai River late-run king salmon in season projection is 13,500–15,000 large fish, in the set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District the Department may:

- After July 27, if still projecting the SEG, the Department may give up to two (2) additional 8-hour periods, centered on high water, based on abundance, for a total of 16 hours.
- establish legal gear in commercial fishing periods under this section by restricting gear to 1 set gillnet that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth.
- full retention and reporting of all dead king salmon is required on a fish ticket
- mandatory release of all live viable king salmon
- fishery openings will be based around prescribed tides based upon Seldovia District Tide Tables as follows: Ninilchik River Mouth to Kasilof River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-21, 244-22), Kasilof River Mouth to Kenai River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-31, 244-32), Kenai River Mouth to Boulder Point (Stat Areas 244-41, 244-42)*
- closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday

When preseason forecasts or inseason projections of Kenai River large late-run king salmon escapements are above OEG 15,000, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery (ESSN fishery) may be opened within respective seasons as defined in 5 AAC 21.310 (C) (i) (ii) (iii) Fishing Seasons with restrictive gear as follows between June 20 and August 15:

If the Kenai River late-run king salmon are projected to exceed an escapement of 15,000 large fish, while under the Stock of Concern Action Plan and **to support rebuilding the Kenai River King Salmon stocks**, the use of bait and retention of king salmon is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery. In the commercial setnet fishery, the commissioner shall:

- limit commercial fishing periods to 8-hour periods, centered on high water, based on abundance, for a total of 24 hrs per week.
- restrict legal gear in commercial fishing periods under this section to 2 set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth.
- full retention and reporting of all dead king salmon is required on a fish ticket
- mandatory release of all live viable king salmon

- fishery openings will be based around prescribed tides based upon Seldovia District Tide Tables as follows: Ninilchik River Mouth to Kasilof River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-21, 244-22), Kasilof River Mouth to Kenai River Mouth (Stat Areas 244-31, 244-32), Kenai River Mouth to Boulder Point (Stat Areas 244-41, 244-42)*
- closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday

***ESSN Staggered Start Times**

Break by River Mouth (8 Hour Opening)

All openings Based on adding hours to Seldovia low tide tables

Add 3 Hours Stat Areas 244-21 , 244-22

Add 4 Hours Stat Areas 244-31 , 244-32

Add 5 Hours Stat Areas 244-41 , 244-42

Rounding to nearest Half Hour

- Openings may start on the hour or the half hour

- 15 minutes prior to and after the hour shall be rounded to nearest hour
- Example: 7:45 - 8:15 = 8:00 start
- Example: 8:16 - 8:44 = 8:30 start

Additionally:

- All openings shall start no earlier than 05:00 and end no later than Midnight

Objectives:

- Avoiding the nearest 1.5 hours following and preceding a low tide in any Stat Area
- Striving to avoid the nearest 2 hours following and preceding a tide in any Stat Area
- Only to be utilized in fisheries prosecuted while within the Kenai Late-Run Stock of Concern Action Plan