

Proposal 180.
New information.

The silver stocks are a genetically unique fish.

The Kenai River salmon exhibit a unique life history in the fact that as we speak and write this there are tagged coho salmon on the beds between Mile Marker 53 Sterling Highway Bridge and the regulatory Markers approximately 1/4 mile above the Cooper Landing Bridge Mile Marker 48 Sterling highway. The salmon currently on the beds were tagged below Skilak Lake in late September and October. This means that the cohos are in the system between 4-6 months before they spawn. You can look at this current data that is on going study being conducted by US Fish and Wildlife. The web site is jimsshingapps.io/kenai_cohos

The economic impact that silver salmon have on the Kenai Peninsula for guides and local business owners is enhanced when there are more silver salmon to target in the fall, the efficiency of spawning cohos will be more productive if they are protected on there winter beds. With the king salmon closures, businesses that were previously closed in the fall are staying open later to cater to silver salmon fishermen and need a longer fall season to make up for the lost revenue that isn't there in the early season due to no guiding of king salmon.

The fish are continuously targeted on their beds by sport anglers under the guise of fishing for rainbow trout and Dolly Varden char all winter long. The proof in this is on YouTube with many videos you can watch right now of targeted silvers being taken out of the water on video.

There is no good information on the exploitation rates of the coho salmon run to fish being caught.

The uncertainty and lack of knowledge of coho salmon in the Kenai River and statewide should warrant conservative management.

Proposal 180 does not close the area mentioned for the entire winter, it closes a specific area for a specific time to protect spawning silver salmon when they are most likely on there beds. The stretch of river will be open for the month of April when the majority of the spawn is done.

