

RC for ACR 9  
Jordan Larsen  
Togiak River Lodge

Dear Board of Fish,

I'm submitting my comment for ACR 9 that is related to a change in bait regulations on the Togiak River.

The current bait regulation on the Togiak has had an unforeseen effect on the Togiak sport fishery for Sockeye and Silvers by reducing angler opportunity by not being able to fish certain baits that do not effect king salmon in a negative way.

Before the current regulations were passed, those targeting Togiak sockeye with rod and reel primarily used maribou jigs or flies under a bobber, with a small piece of prawns tipped on the hook. This was a very effective way to target sockeye without flossing or snagging which is difficult on the Togiak due to it's incredibly clear water and inconsistent flow of fish into the river due to the commercial net schedule.

Now that the ability to use jigs or flies with prawns is not possible do to the new sport fishing regulations, angler opportunity for togiak sockeye is almost non existent. The Board of fish surely did not intend to limit sport fishing opportunity for an abundant species such as sockeye on the Togiak and was likely not aware of the unique fishery that existed for Togiak sockeye when proposal 29 was passed last winter. This is the first unforeseen effect on the Togiak sport fishery.

The second unforeseen effect on the Togiak sport fishery is the loss of opportunity at targeting silver salmon with bait.

Silver salmon have practically zero overlap with Togiak king salmon yet can not be targeted with bait. The bait ban on the Togiak was passed to promote king salmon conservation, however there are no kings left in the Togiak River where sportfishing occurs for silver salmon, thus making a bait ban non effective for conserving king salmon. Not being able to target silver salmon in August with non roe bait, limited Sportfishing opportunity severely during the 2023 Togiak silver season.

To conclude, anglers on the Togiak have no interest in appealing king salmon harvest, there is no interest in moving king salmon boundaries. There is no interest in using roe as bait. Anglers just want to have the opportunity to target sockeye and silvers with certain baits like they could before the current regulation went into effect.

These are the unforeseen effects on the Togiak River due to the sport fishing regulations that went into effect in 2023.

Regards,

Jordan Larsen