

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
2002-212-FB**

EARLY RUN KENAI RIVER KING SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

Proposal 293 and related proposals (289, 290, 291, 292, 294, 295, 297 and 323) were reviewed both in board committee and extensively by the full Board of Fisheries in deliberations. The committee report, RC 80, devoted three pages to the discussion of the pros and cons relative to this proposal.

The board, in deliberations, considered several staff and board-generated RCs (120, 132 and 136) which contained various options for the board's consideration. In addition, the board reviewed and discussed several publicly generated RCs (92, 93, 96, 103, 106, 115, 117 and 123) dealing with the pros and cons of the fishery. Finally, individual board members had numerous discussions with the stakeholders. In short, the board was fully informed on the issues surrounding this suite of proposals.

Based upon the information provided, the board finds as follows:

- 1) There has been a long term and well recognized decline in the presence of large, five ocean king salmon in the early run Kenai sport fishery. The board's primary goal is to provide protection for these large and unique salmon.
- 2) Under the current management plan, the fishery has been changed in season in most years since the current plan's inception.
- 3) There is a significant guided sport effort in this fishery. The guides need a level of stability in the fishery in order to market the fishery to their clients, both resident and nonresident. Stability has been lacking in this fishery over the past several years.
- 4) There is a significant nonguided sport effort by mostly resident anglers. These fishers prefer to harvest these king salmon, although they, like all others familiar with the fishery, are anxious to protect the large five-ocean chinook.

Based on these findings, the board adopted proposal 293 as amended (RC 136) in an effort to balance all of these resource and stakeholder concerns.

Adopted: 2/20/02
Anchorage, Alaska


Ed Dersham, Chair

Vote: 7-0