

PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.
Allow commercial fishing periods in the Kasilof and Kenai/East Forelands sections to be opened separately, with regard to “paired” restrictions, if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery, as follows:

A) If the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this section, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 36 hours per week in the combined Kenai/East Foreland Section or separately in the Kasilof Section, with a 36 hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, during which the number of set gillnets operated may also be restricted to either (i), or (ii)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Decouple The Kenai/East Foreland Section from the Kasilof Section in regards to 36 hour limit for fishing under 5 AAC 21.359. Allow each section to be managed independently so that when one section is open it does not count towards the other section’s 36 hour limit. In order to manage to existing escapement objectives in both the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, ADFG should have more flexibility to fish the 36 hours independently in each section. There are approximately 35 miles of beach in the Kasilof Section and 25 miles of beach in the Kenai/E. Foreland sections. Localized concentrations of fish in the 60 miles of beach can occur, but if one section of beach is opened to harvest this abundance, the hours used count toward the 36 hour allotment for the entire beach. Allowing ADF&G to independently use the 36 hours in each beach will make meeting the objective of maximizing sockeye salmon harvest more effective, and thus, more efficient

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F16-047)
