

Submitted by Joseph Person

While we feel that there is no scientifically defensible position for an increase in the upper end of the inriver goal and it is simply allocative, a slight increase in exchange for some relief in other areas of the plan seems possible. The following is proposed language for the use of the board in revising the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Management Plan. Functionally it does the following and otherwise leaves the plan as currently written.

- Removes OEG
- Raises the high end of the Inriver goal in the third tier to 1,500,000 fish
- Removes the "Tuesday Window" in the middle tier

I feel that this does an admirable job of simultaneously fulfilling the department's request to clarify between the OEG and the Inriver Goal for management purposes; and striking a compromise between providing further allocation for the inriver fishery in times of high abundance while provide more flexibility to the department when managing the setnet fishery in the middle tier.

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance. The department shall also manage the commercial fisheries to minimize the harvest of Northern District Coho, late-run Kenai River king, and Kenai River coho salmon stocks in order to provide personal use, sport, and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest salmon resources.

(b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to

(1) [MEET AN OPTIMUM ESCAPEMENT GOAL (OEG) RANGE OF 700,000 — 1,400,000 LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON];

(2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19; and

(3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the SEG [OEG] range, in proportion to the size of the run.

(c) Based on preseason forecasts and inseason evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the run will be managed as follows:

(1) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 900,000 - 1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; and

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21 _320, through July 20: unless the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, at which time the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 24 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC 21.365;

(2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 — 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,000,000 - 1,200,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

(B) subject to the provisions of other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21 _320 through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first. if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 5 1 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC21.365;and

(C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday [AND FOR ONE CONTINUOUS 24-HOUR PERIOD PER WEEK BEGINNING BETWEEN 7 P.M. MONDAY AND 7 A.M. WEDNESDAY];

(3) at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,100,000 - 1,500,000 [1,350,000] sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

(B) subject to the provisions or other management plans, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will fish regular weekly fishing periods, as specified in 5 AAC 21.320, through July 20, or until the department makes a determination of run strength, whichever occurs first; if the department determines that the minimum inriver goal will not be met, the fishery shall be closed or restricted as necessary; the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow extra fishing periods of no more than 84 hours per week, except as provided in 5 AAC21.365;and

(C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 36-hour period per week, beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

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