



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Kenai Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office
43655 Kalifornsky Beach Road
Soldotna, AK 99669-8296

IN REPLY REFER TO
FWS/AFES

March 2, 2017

Mr. John Jensen, Chair
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99211-5526

Dear Mr. Jensen:

The intent of proposal number 159 submitted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was to extend the protective slot limit and no-bait restrictions for Chinook Salmon upstream of the Slikok Creek regulatory marker through the month of July, as articulated on Page 174 of the proposal book (underline emphasis added):

"The effect of this proposal will be to extend early-run regulations through July 31 upstream of the Slikok Creek closure area, including a protective slot limit and single hook/no bait restrictions. This would reduce the harvest of both early- and late-run Chinook Salmon by an unknown amount and likely reduce the harvest fish between 42 and 55 inches by an unknown amount."

Our proposed regulatory text to extend the slot limit through July 31 was included in the published proposal, but our proposed regulatory text extending the single hook, artificial lure restriction through July 31 was omitted from the published version of proposal number 159. The omission has caused the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) to question the efficacy of the proposal, including a statement on page 42 of the Department Staff analysis (RC3): "*Changing the date of the slot limit may put it in conflict with other actions, such as allowing use of bait in the fishery, described in the plan.*" Our proposal asked for both: changing (extending) the date for the slot limit and the single hook, artificial lure restriction.

Thank you for the opportunity to correct the record by addressing this omission. I am happy to address any questions from the Board.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Anderson
Field Supervisor
Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office