

Further Explanation in Support of RCs 181 & 192

Substitute language for proposal #149 is provided in RC 181
RC 181 reflects a rare consensus of sport fishing interests
RC 196 is not consistent with RCs 181 & 192

PURPOSES THE OF KENAI EARLY RUN KING SALMON REBUILDING PLAN

1. Conserve and rebuild abundance and diversity of Kenai early-run King Salmon following a period of historical low abundance.
2. Implement a precautionary management strategy that recognizes large uncertainty in the historical stock assessment information and in productivity of low runs and escapements.
3. Provide sustainable, reasonable, and predictable fishery opportunities based on abundance.

PLAN ELEMENTS

1. A precautionary OEG based on large fish which can be accurately counted with the sonar.
 - *The new proposed OEG is the big fish equivalent of the previous goal based on all fish sizes.*
2. A maximum size limit of 36" (under most circumstances).
 - *This protects the large majority of female spawners (more than half of 3 ocean females and nearly all of the 4 and 5 ocean females).*
 - *Harvesting smaller kings will help counteract any historical selective harvest effects.*
3. Extends protective measures for the early run in the middle river through July (including the mainstem spawning component).
4. Continues to provide for predictable fishing opportunity for kings in both the lower and middle river based on abundance.
5. Increases fishery opportunities as abundance increases. This includes harvest of kings of all sizes in the lower river at large run sizes when the escapement goal will be achieved.

SUSTAINABLE

1. This plan increases escapement of kings and particularly large kings at low to moderate run sizes.
2. It distributes escapements throughout the historical range.
3. It meets explicit direction contained in 57.160(b) of the plan *"to ensure the age and size composition of the harvest closely approximates the age and size composition of the run over time."*
4. By managing for high escapements, this plan reduces risks of future low runs which can be produced by escapements within the SEG range according to spawner-recruit data.

IMPLEMENTABLE

1. The current assessment program provides all information necessary for implementation of this plan.
2. The plan continues to provide broad management discretion for the Department.

Kenai Early Run Kings

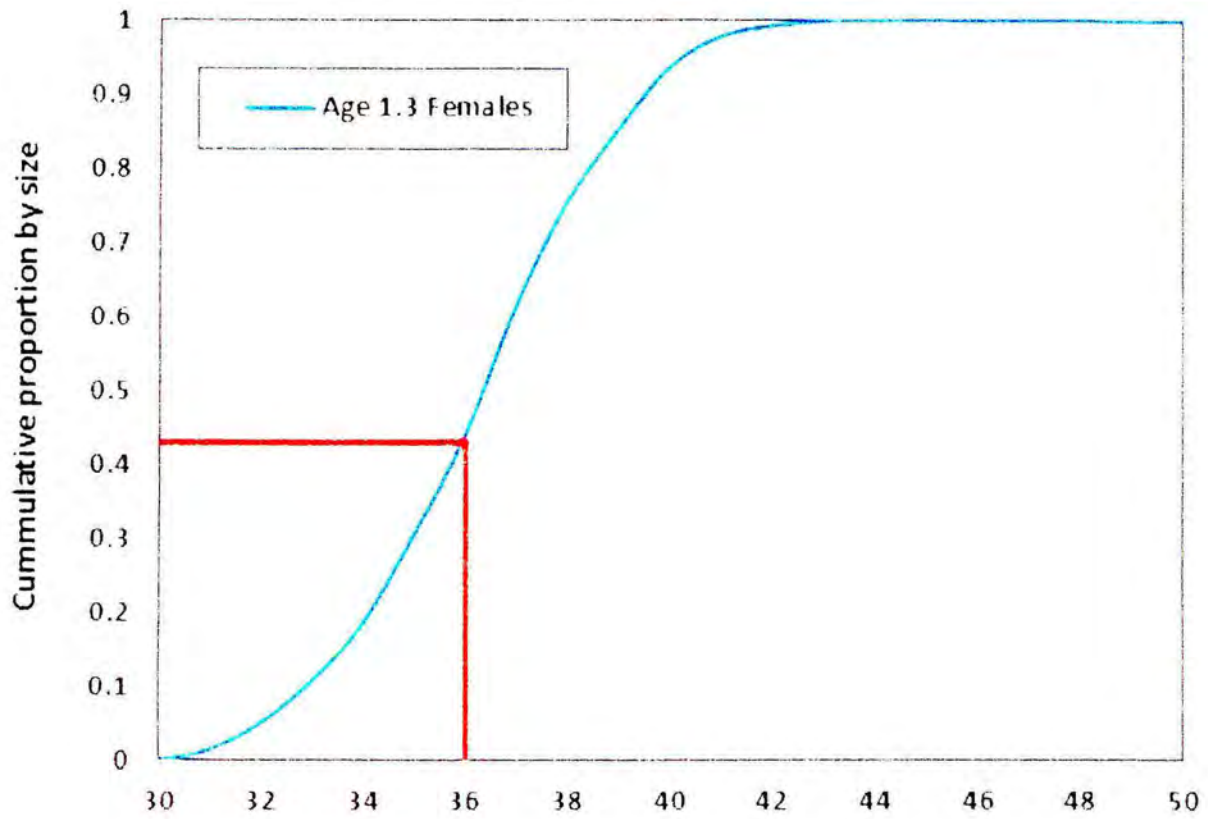


Figure 1. Proportion of Age 1.3 (5-year old) Kenai early-run king salmon affected by a 36 inch maximum length limit.