

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the number of hours the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery may be fished in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* paired restrictions, as follows:

(3) in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, excluding the East Foreland Section, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), (2)(B), and (3)(B), based on the abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers,

(A) if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than **24** hours per week **equal to two 12-hour contiguous periods**, 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) four set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length, 105 fathoms in aggregate length, and 29 meshes in depth, or two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or
- (ii) two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth or one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more than 29 meshes in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or

(B) if the use of bait and the retention of king salmon are prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(B) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more **than one 12-hour contiguous period** per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Because the *Kenai Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* is managed primarily for sport and guided sport uses, we feel that the current restrictions put on both sport and commercial fishing on the Kenai during times of inadequate king salmon escapement are not in parity with one another. Sportfish restrictions are defined by bait and retention, the gillnet commercial fishery restrictions are defined by the opportunity time to fish.

Restricting the use of bait is a greater restriction on the sport fishery than a restricting the gillnet fishery to 48 hours per week. Likewise, restricting the use of bait and the retention of king salmon is a greater restriction on the sport fishery than restricting the gillnet fishery to 24 hours per week.

Additionally, there is no guidance for frequency or duration for fishing periods for the gillnet fishery, only a restriction in the total number of hours fished per week. This allows the gillnet fishery to fish often and for varying durations while the sport fishery is restricted around the clock to bait or retention. We would like to see the number and duration of fishing periods defined.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association

(HQ-F19-072)
