

PROPOSAL 110

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

Modify "paired" restrictions to limit gear in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery only when retention of king salmon is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery, as follows:

(3) in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, 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 **and the retention of king salmon are** prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 48 hours per week, 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

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2014 Upper Cook Inlet BOF paired restrictions were established for the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. The paired restrictions were introduced when there was a SEG for ALL sizes of King Salmon. In 2017 ADF&G changed the SEG for Late-Run King Salmon to only include chinook 75cm METF and longer.

From 2005 to 2018 the In-River Sport fishery has been the primary harvester of 75cm and longer chinook salmon. During that time, the In-River sport fishery took 71% of the harvest of large kings and the ESSN took 29%.

The Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries states when it is necessary to restrict fisheries on salmon stocks where there are known conservation problems, the burden of conservation shall be shared among all fisheries in **close proportion** to each fisheries' respective use.

With the In-River Sport fishery being the primary harvester of large chinook they should be the first to be restricted in times of conservation. There should be NO ACTION in the set gill net commercial fishery UNTIL the In-River sport fishery is restricted to no retention.

PROPOSED BY: Amber and Travis Every

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