

PROPOSAL 177

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

Open the North Kalifornsky Beach set gillnet fishery with the Kasilof section and limit the fishery to within 600 feet of the mean high tide, as follows:

5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(i) and (ii)

I propose allowing the set gillnet fishery in the North Kalifornsky Beach (NKB) area within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark to be managed like it was part of the Kasilof Section. Previous genetic stock identification data shows that the harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon can be quite high in this statistical area (244-32). By limiting the fishery to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark, there would be very minimal impact on Kenai River king salmon, while allowing additional harvest of Kasilof River sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 21.310 (b)(2)(C)(i) and (ii) are amended to read

(i) Kasilof Section **and that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat. and within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;** from June 25 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; however if the department estimates that 50,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the commissioner may immediately, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

(ii) Kenai and East Forelands Sections: from July 8 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only; [ON OR AFTER JULY 8, WHEN THE KASILOF SECTION IS OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING WITH SET GILLNETS AND THE KENAI AND EAST FORELANDS SECTIONS ARE CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING WITH SET GILLNETS, COMMERCIAL FISHING WITH SET GILLNETS MAY BE ALLOWED WITHIN 600 FEET OF THE MEAN HIGH TIDE MARK IN THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI SECTION NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE BLANCHARD LINE AT 60° 27.10' N. LAT., AND SOUTH OF THE LATITUDE OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED SOUTH OF THE KENAI RIVER MOUTH AT 60° 30.49' N. LAT.;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sonar counts of sockeye salmon escapement in the Kasilof River have shown that the BEG for this system has been exceeded in 17 of the past 20 years (BEG = 150,000-250,000 from 1999-2010; 160,000-340,000 from 2011-2018). This not only represents significant foregone harvest opportunity, but it leads to an increased likelihood of smaller future yields. ADF&G has set a BEG on this system, which is the most scientifically defensible goal the department sets. Something needs to be done to allow more harvest on this stock so that the BEG can be met more frequently.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Every

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