

PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing seasons.

Amend the one percent rule in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery to apply starting July 31 instead of August 7, as follows:

We recommend moving the date back to July 31 to read:

5 AAC 21.310 (2) (C.) (iii.) Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections: in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, and separately in the Kasilof Section, the season will close August 15, unless closed by emergency order after **July 31**, if the department determines that less than one percent of the season’s total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, or separately in the Kasilof Section; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular fishing periods only; for purposes of this sub-subparagraph, “fishing period” means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the last Board cycle, the implementation date for the Upper Cook Inlet 1% rule applying to the fishing seasons for Upper Cook Inlet Kenai, Kasilof & East Forelands sections was changed from August 1 to August 7.

This has the potential for additional commercial fishing periods after the sockeye numbers have dropped, signifying the end of the run. As a result, the commercial fishery has extended opportunity to harvest Kenai River bound coho salmon that is has been prioritized for sport fish per 5 AAC 57.170.

Kenai coho are highly exploited and we would like to see the board err to the side of sport-fish priority as laid out in the management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association

(HQ-F19-071)
