PROPOSAL 284

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Amend the size limit for Kenai River early-run king salmon from 36 inches to 34 inches to be consistent with the size limit in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

(a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 57.121 -5 AAC 57.123 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, the following are the general seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means that apply to sport fishing for finfish in the Kenai River Drainage Area:

….

(2) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(A) may be taken only from January 1 – July 31, in the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, as follows:

(i) from January 1 – June 30, from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, and from July 1 – July 31, from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of the Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, only king salmon that are less than **34** [36] inches in length as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail may be retained;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provisions added to the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* by the board at the February Upper Cook Inlet meeting included an option for the department to allow harvest of king salmon less than 34 inches. Amending the language referenced in the early-run plan would add regulatory consistency between early and late runs. This length is also consistent with the size separation for the "large fish" escapement goal measured at the king salmon sonar project.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

(formerly BGP #2 adopted at the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet Finfish meeting)

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