

Cook Inlet Area-wide Sport and Personal Use (6 proposals)

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Clarify the requirement of immediately releasing king salmon over 20 inches, as follows:

Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 56.122 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 Peninsula Area: (1) king salmon (A) 20 inches or greater in length may not be retained or possessed; the season is closed for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; a king salmon caught that is 20 inches or greater in length must be released immediately without returning to shore; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; **(i) any king salmon netted from a vessel must be released from the net from the vessel immediately.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anglers hooking king salmon from a vessel, dragging them to the beach or shallow water, then releasing causes undue harm to the fish. This puts additional stress on large fish in shallow water. These fish are then subject to injury and structural damage. Once at the shore, release time is unnecessarily delayed. This will provide additional language that will clear any gray area in the definition of “released immediately” in the regulation at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hanes (HQ-F19-068)

**This proposal will be heard at the LCI and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet — Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Establish a seasonal limit of five king salmon in Cook Inlet from October 1—April 30, as follows:

Establish a Cook Inlet winter King Salmon seasonal limit of 5 fish per angler between the dates of October 1 to April 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a seasonal limit for winter king salmon in Cook Inlet of 5 fish per person per winter season, this winter seasonal limit will not affect the annual seasonal cook inlet of King salmon, a person could catch 5 kings in the summer, & 5 kings in the winter season. King salmon stocks are at all time lows throughout the entire North Pacific Ocean.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh (EF-F19-035)

**This proposal will be heard at the LCI and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 75.075. Sport fishing services and sport fishing guide services; salt water license and fresh water registration requirements; regulation of activities; 75.076. Sport fishing guide and operator reporting requirements; and 75.077. Sport fishing guide vessel registration requirements.

Prohibit reselling of guide services by anyone other than licensed guides, as follows:

Only Licensed, & registered fishing guides & Guide businesses are allowed to sub-contract fishing trips to other licensed, & registered fishing guides & businesses.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unlicensed, & unregistered Fishing guide services & businesses, selling, & sub contracting fishing trips without a guide license or being a registered guide business. This is unfair competition to licensed guide businesses, & also a consumer protection issue to anglers, This is also a deterrent to the orderly development, & operational conduct of a fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (EF-F19-053)

PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Limit the prosecution of fishing derbies, as follows:

Derbies should be prosecuted on quantified stocks where fish do not spawn, in times of abundance.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Seven derbies on the Kenai River. Derbies impact fish runs. Spawning kings are caught during the coho derbies. Same as king salmon crash. Derbies are not part of a sustainable fishery, consider enhancements.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-F19-038)

PROPOSAL 86

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

Establish resident and non-resident annual limits for sockeye salmon in the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

Establish a combined Personal Use/Sport annual limit on the number of sockeye that can be retained.

Non-residents should be limited to 12 sockeye annually. Residents should be allowed a combined annual limit equal to personal use limits (which may need to increase a bit).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Some fishers take enough sockeye for their own use as well as enough to provide cooler-full amounts of salmon filets to relatives and friends Outside, including overseas. Daily limits are exceeded quite often, and the

current rules contribute to crowded fishing conditions. The resource should be allocated in a somewhat rational fashion that reflects personal needs.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Pratt

(EF-F19-049)

PROPOSAL 87

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan; and 5 AAC 77.545. Kachemak Bay Personal Use Dip Net Fishery Management Plan; 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Eliminate the personal use salmon dip net fishery and prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon in the Kenai Peninsula area, as follows:

No more catch and release of salmon.

No more dipnet fishery.

In Alaska, or Kenai peninsula Borough

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Red salmon/plankton eaters. They help set the pH of our oceans.

We are taking too many salmon, 6 million fish are harvested by sport fishing on the lakes and streams of the Kenai peninsula Borough, catch and release is 24/7 in this river system. We are dipnetting 7 million fish on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, 13 million fish, the plankton eaters are what establish the pH levels of our oceans that's the entire run of red salmon.

If we continue to dipnet and fish the spawning grounds, and rest area in the river system we will lose our fish that keep the oceans pH levels safe.

Proposed changes: no more catch and release.

On the Kenai Peninsula Borough

No more dipnet fishing (unregulated enforcement)

No more dipnet fishing, there are no laws to enforce the welfare of our fish. No more dipnet net fishery on the Kenai Peninsula Borough ever.

PROPOSED BY: Ron Carmon

(EF-F19-001)
