

02.16.2020

RC 172

In reference to **Proposal 117 – Kasilof River 600 ft. to 1200 ft.**

Board members,

SOKI would like to bring to your attention the previous rule on distance allowed to be fished in the terminal area of the Kasilof River prior to 2017. The new 2017 regulation updated the regulatory line in to GPS waypoints to further aid enforcement and setnet fishermen to remain within a defined area. It is a relatively confined area and requires some attention to the rapid retreat of water and extensive mud flats. These mudflats are a common occurrence on the southern beaches of the ESSN beaches.

*(Prior to 2017 season)*

**5 AAC 21.365 Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan**

**(f)(1) set gillnets may be operated only within 1,200 feet of the mean high tide mark.**

This requested change would be another “tool” in the “toolbox” for the Department to use when the Kenai run of sockeye is distressed or late and the Kasilof sockeye are entering the historical areas of the fisheries and the River as predicted.

The 600ft. was too restrictive for an orderly harvest in the terminal areas so the Board in 2014 increased the distance to accommodate tide fluctuations and allow a reasonable opportunity to harvest surplus stocks of Kasilof River bound sockeye.

This equates to an approximate change in area from roughly 6.5 % of the allowable area to 13% of the Kasilof section.

*Please consider this proposal as a conservation measure to maintain stocks of Kasilof sockeye to within the new lower goal range of 140,000 to 320,000.*

Submitted By:

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