

**PROPOSAL 13**

**5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan.**

Structure fishing periods in the Nushagak District so that pulses of king salmon, not subjected to commercial fishing pressure, may enter the Nushagak River, as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game will create opportunities for pulses of King salmon to enter the Nushagak River. From June 1 through July 10 this will be done by issuing commercial openings no earlier than 1 hour before the forecasted high tide at Clark’s Point. The Department will close fishing at least 4 hours before the next scheduled high tide. This will allow for pulses of Kings to make it into the Nushagak River while still allowing for the commercial fleet and set users to access the resource and have economic opportunities. For example:

High tide at Clark’s Point on June 28 is at 0600 and again at 1630 and then on June 29 at 0530.

An opener for both set and drift is announced for June 28 from 0500 (1 hour before high tide) to 1230 (4 hours before next high tide) 7 hours 30 minutes, and again from 1530 (1 hour prior to high tide) June 28 until 0130 (4 hours before next high tide) June 29, 10 hours of fishing.

The Department can allow for continuous fishing starting on July 11

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 06.361. Nushagak-Mulchatna King Salmon Management Plan with regards to King salmon states in Section (b)(2):

(b) The department shall manage the commercial and sport fisheries in the Nushagak District as follows:

(2)in order to maintain a natural representation of age classes in the escapement, the department shall attempt to schedule commercial openings to provide pulses of fish into the river that have not been subject to harvest by commercial gear;

The Department has not always followed through with this mandate while managing the sockeye commercial openers which has an unintended intercept of King salmon. To meet the requirement of the NMKSMP there must be meaningful breaks in commercial fishing that facilitate opportunity for Kings to move into the river thus meeting the requirement set forth in the plan. These breaks need to be realistic in timing as to when the most kings are pushing through the commercial district while still maximizing opportunity for the commercial fishers to harvest sockeye. The flood stage of an incoming high tide time is by far the best time to hold the commercial fishery to allow pulses of fish into the river that have not been subject to harvest by commercial gear.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Kraft (EF-F22-060)

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