

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 06.377 Reporting requirements. and 5 AAC 67.XXX New section.

Require reporting of king salmon harvest in guided sport fisheries and commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay, as follows:

Require all sport fishing operations to turn in a seasonal tally of King salmon retained. This number is to be inclusive of clients, guides, staff, or any person that utilized the services of the sport fishing operation. This tally sheet will be completed daily and a running total logged with a final cumulative total at the end of the operator's season. There shall also be a size category reporting requirement, as well as quantity of fish over 28" and those under 28".

All commercial drift permit holders must submit a King salmon fishing registration sheet that records the total king salmon retained by any person while under the command of the captain along with their annual fishing license number. This includes employees, contract workers, deck hands, mechanics, guests, or any person that retains a King salmon. While Gill nets are being deployed in the commercial fishery targeting sockeye salmon, they are also harvesting Kings. This fishing registration sheet will be completed daily and a running total logged with a final cumulative total reported at the end of the operator's season. This does not pertain to any King salmon directive commercial openers.

All commercial set net permit holders must also complete a King salmon fishing registration sheet that records the total King salmon retained by any person when caught through use of implementation of a set net during a commercial sockeye opening. This includes retention by the Captain, any employee, contract workers, general laborers, mechanics, guests, or any person that retains a King salmon. because the implementation of a set net being used in the commercial fishery targeting sockeye salmon. This tally sheet shall be completed daily and a running total logged with a final cumulative total at the end of the operator's season. This does not pertain to any King salmon directive commercial openers.

Penalties for non-compliance or falsification of data will be designed by the department; however, we recommend that they be severe to deter under-reporting or non-reporting. Sport fishing lodges/camps should receive a significant fine along with suspension from the fishery, losing the ability to have clients for a year. Commercial drift-net Captains should receive a significant fine along with suspension from the fishery and their permit suspended for a year. Set-net permit holders should also receive a significant fine along with suspension from the fishery for a year as well.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The King salmon runs of Bristol Bay have faced some very tough times over the last few years. We are seeing less and less Kings returning to the system and the size composition is rapidly declining. We must get a better handle on the amount of King salmon that are being retained in the bay. The sport fishing industry no longer has the log-books that were required to be on-hand and completed before stepping ashore. The commercial fishery intercepts kings in their effort to catch sockeye; and by many accounts, many if not most of those Kings find their way into "home packs" and are not reported. This self-reporting will help the department get a handle on King salmon retention and allow for tools to help protect the King runs of the Bristol Bay rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Sport Fishing Association

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