

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 65.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Cinder, Meshik, and Black Hills rivers, and North Creek, as follows:

(1) king salmon:

(A) in fresh waters: may be taken only from January 1 through July 25, except that king salmon may be taken in the Chignik River only from January 1 through August 9, and as follows:

(i) 20 inches or greater in length; **no retention on the Cinder, Meshik, Black Hills, and North Creek rivers except in the Chignik River the** bag and possession limit of two fish; annual

limit of five fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;]

(ii) less than 20 inches in length; bag and possession limit of 10 fish; no annual limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prohibit sport fish retention of king salmon in rivers on the Alaska Peninsula in Area M (does not include the Chignik River) that do not already have catch and release restrictions such as the Cinder, Meshik, Black Hills, and North Creek systems that typically have decent escapements as measured by aerial surveys over the years. The only king salmon system on the North Alaska Peninsula that has an escapement goal is the Nelson River and the biological escapement goal has been met in most years and occasionally exceeds the upper escapement goal. Sport fishing gear changes on the systems that are not already catch and release such as single barbless hook, no bait, and other restrictions that are found on king salmon rivers that have restrictions should also be implemented to protect king salmon while allowing catch and release sportfishing and the continuation of healthy king salmon runs. Those systems that already have king salmon retention and gear restrictions such as the Nelson, King Salmon, Bear River(Ridgerunner Creek), and Sandy River are not included in this proposal and remain unchanged as these rivers already have restrictions and this proposal is only seeking to implement restrictions to North Alaska Peninsula systems where king salmon can still be retained using sport fishing gear.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Bob Murphy

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