

PROPOSAL 180

5 AAC 75.XXX. New Section.

Establish a statewide annual limit for king salmon of five fish, as follows:

Except as provided for under E.O. authority, there is an annual Statewide sport limit of 5 Chinook salmon, January 1 – December 31 each year within all salt and fresh waters areas of Alaska. All retained Chinook will be reported on an e-reporting Application or annually submit the required Sport Fishing Annual Harvest Record to ADF&G.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Place an annual statewide sport fish limit on chinook salmon and develop an e-reporting Application or annually submit the required Sport Fishing Annual Harvest Record to ADF&G.

Justification: Along the Pacific coast of North America, there are only a few naturally spawning Chinook salmon rivers that are not having difficulty meeting their minimum escapement goals. Chinook salmon from these rivers play a critical role in a healthy ecosystem from the Mexican border to the Arctic. Young and growing chinook salmon are a calorically high value food source and serve as an important prey to predatory fish, marine mammals, and fishermen before returning to their home stream to spawn. By not protecting and maintaining chinook stocks that are not considered local, additional stress is placed on local Alaskan stocks as non-local chinook stocks decline. Furthermore, unrestricted winter chinook harvests on feeders still impact our local Alaskan “Stocks of Concern” when their GOA abundance is approximately ¼ of the harvest. The adequate management of this declining resource requires ADF&G to develop a comprehensive method to assess impacts to these stocks through catch and effort assessment via analysis of Harvest Records.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have spent many hours discussing this issue with Sport, Subsistence and Commercial users at numerous fishery meetings during the past two years.

PROPOSED BY: Earl Krygier

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