

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 01.172. Limitations on subsistence fishing gear.

Prohibit the retention of king salmon when subsistence fishing with a beach seine in the Pilgrim River, as follows:

In coordination with management practices for the conservation of the Pilgrim River king salmon stock, it is recommended for the non-retention of king salmon through subsistence practices when beach-seining while targeting other species like sockeye salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The northern latitudinal limit for king salmon is near southern Norton Sound, however, king salmon are present in the Pilgrim River, Port Clarence District in small numbers. The five and 10-year average for king salmon escapement on the Pilgrim River is 30 and 55 kings, respectively. Current regulations in the Port Clarence District for the Pilgrim River state that the annual limit for king salmon is three fish and 25 fish for sockeye salmon, unless modified by the commissioner by emergency order.

The Pilgrim River receives significant subsistence pressure from Nome-area residents seeking sockeye salmon, largely through beach seining efforts. While these fishers are not targeting king salmon, the current regulations allow for, and result in, their harvest up to an annual limit of three king salmon. Pilgrim River continues to exhibit a low abundance of king salmon due to overall production of the stock. This proposal would address management actions for non-retention of king salmon through subsistence practices when beach-seining while targeting other species such as sockeye salmon to conserve and sustain what king salmon stock is available at the Pilgrim River.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal has been endorsed by the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (EF-F26-052)
