

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 06.391. Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan.

Repeal provisions allowing commercial fishing, adopt date specific provisions for opening commercial fisheries based on king salmon inriver projected run size, and prohibit the retention of king salmon in the sport fishery , as follows:

Adopt additional restrictions to protect King escapements. These include early season limitations on opening of the commercial fisheries, provisions for no-fishing windows in the commercial fisheries and prohibition of retention in the sport fishery.

5 AAC 06.391. Nushagak District King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan.

...

(d) **Notwithstanding sections (2) through (5) of this plan,** [B]before 9:00 a.m. June 28, if the Nushagak king salmon inriver run size is projected to be less than 95,000 fish, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the sockeye salmon commercial drift gillnet fishery in the Nushagak District, and the sockeye salmon commercial set net fishery in the Nushagak Section of the Nushagak District[~~UNTIL~~].

~~[(1) THE SOCKEYE SALMON SONAR ESTIMATE IN THE NUSHAGAK RIVER IS PROJECTED TO EXCEED SIX PERCENT OF THE NUSHAGAK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON RUN BASED ON THE NUSHAGAK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON PRESEASON FORECAST AND INSEASON ASSESSMENT OF RUN SIZE; OR~~

~~(2) THE SOCKEYE SALMON COUNT PAST THE WOOD RIVER COUNTING TOWER IS PROJECTED TO EXCEED 10PERCENT OF THE WOOD RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON RUN SIZE BASED ON THE WOOD RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON PRESEASON FORECAST AND INSEASON ASSESSMENT OF RUN SIZE.]~~

(e) **Notwithstanding sections (2) through (5) of this plan, from 9:00 a.m. June 28 through July 4, if the Nushagak king salmon inriver run size is projected to be less than 95,000, the commissioner shall close concurrently, by emergency order, the sockeye salmon commercial drift gillnet fishery in the Nushagak District, and the sockeye salmon commercial set net fishery in the Nushagak Section of the Nushagak District for a minimum of 12-hours per day.**

(f) The department shall manage the sport fishery in the Nushagak River drainage, excluding the Wood River drainage, as follows:

- the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is four fish, of which only one fish may be 28 inches or greater in length;
- if the total inriver king salmon run return in the Nushagak River is projected to exceed 95,000 fish, the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the annual limit for king salmon to four king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, with no restrictions for fish over 28 inches in length.
- **retention of king salmon may be prohibited if the Nushagak king salmon inriver run size is projected to be less than 55,000 fish.**

[(f)] (g) Subsistence fisheries will be managed in accordance with the rest of this title.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Numbers of Nushagak River King Salmon have continued to decline since the 2022 Stock of Concern designation and action plan adoption. Record low numbers of King Salmon were estimated at the inriver sonar in 2023 and 2024.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Not applicable

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (EF-F26-006)
