

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.

Modify the king salmon annual limit in the Naknek River, as follows:

The new regulation should read:

Annual bag limit of king Salmon on the Naknek river

(12) the daily bag and possession limit for king salmon is three fish 20 inches or greater in length, of which only one fish may be over 28 inches or greater in length; the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is five fish, only **one** [three] of which may be 28 inches or greater in length

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the decline in king salmon on the Naknek River. During the last BOF cycle, the bag limit for kings over 28" on the Naknek River was reduced from 5 to 3 (over 28 inches). Despite sport fishing making a sacrifice in bag limits, there were still over 700 king salmon retained and reported caught by sport fishermen in 2024, to say nothing of those caught commercially. There have been no noticeable increases in the king run, and ADF&G does not have a management plan, or any data on king escapement. Despite this, it is widely known that kings on the Naknek River are a remnant of what they used to be in past years and that they trend with the states declining numbers. Due to lack of official data, we recommend taking a conservative approach to managing kings. We suggest while the annual bag limit remains at 5 kings, but only one fish over 28" inches may be retained.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Text

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