

Sport fisheries (7 proposals)

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Amend dates that bait is allowed and a single-hook is required in the King Salmon and Bear Rivers, as follows:

5 AAC 65.022(b)(2) is amended to read:

...

(2) may use only an unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly from January 1 through July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the 2023 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik board meeting, the Board of Fisheries adopted bait, gear, and harvest restrictions on king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Bear and King Salmon Rivers near Port Moller. Regulations specify that only an unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly may be used in these drainages; however, the regulations do not specify a date for these restrictions and the restrictions are currently in place year-round rather than only for the king salmon season. While there is little information for salmon runs in these drainages, other than the sockeye salmon run counted at the Bear Lake weir, the original proposal was specific to king salmon. Restricting terminal tackle options during other fisheries in the drainage, such as for coho salmon, is unnecessary. Clarifying that these restrictions apply exclusively to the king salmon fishery from January 1 through July 25 and updating regulatory language to align tackle restrictions with the king salmon season will improve late season angling opportunities for other species and minimize confusion for those fishing these drainages.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-013)

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

(EF-F26-109)

PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River, as follows:

Make the Sandy River a catch and release only fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Based on angler catch information the number and size of King Salmon in the Sandy River over the last 10 years has been steadily decreasing. While the number of anglers that are harvesting King Salmon in the Sandy River appears to be relatively small, as long as the fishery continues to decline, a no kill regulation seems reasonable.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

PROPOSED BY: Jay Michael Watt

(EF-F26-110)

PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Prohibit retention of king salmon in the Sandy River, as follows:

Make the Sandy River a catch and release only fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Based on angler catch information the number and size of King Salmon in the Sandy River over the last 10 years has been steadily decreasing. While the number of anglers that are harvesting King Salmon in the Sandy River appears to be relatively small, as long as the fishery continues to decline, a no kill regulation seems reasonable.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

PROPOSED BY: David Luthy (EF-F26-108)

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Prohibit the use of bait and retention of king salmon in the Sandy River, as follows:

Make the Sandy River a catch and release and no bait fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Decreasing number and size of King Salmon in the Sandy River over the last 10 years.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

PROPOSED BY: David Luthy (EF-F26-099)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Prohibit use of bait and retention of king salmon in the Sandy River as follows:

Catch and release and no bait fishery on the Sandy River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Decreasing number and size of king salmon in the Sandy River over the last 10 years.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

PROPOSED BY: Jay Michael Watt (EF-F26-095)

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 09.XXX. New Section.

Adopt an Alaska Peninsula king salmon management plan, as follows:

Adopt a King Salmon Management plan for streams located on the Alaska Peninsula and are a part of the Bering Sea drainage that do not currently have a plan in place and have an active sports or subsistence or personal use fishery associated with them.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are experiencing severe declines in our king salmon populations all over Alaska. These declines can be attributed to numerous causes, some that are beyond our ability to control and others that we can take measures

to insure we can offer additional protection to a specie that is struggling. This proposal is intended to help us get a handle on managing the runs that we have and put tools in a tool box to use if or when runs become jeopardized or if they are flourishing and healthy, where we can consider liberalizing.

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

PROPOSED BY: Nanci Morris Lyon

(EF-F26-045)
