

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Allow party fishing in Southeast Alaska saltwater fisheries, as follows:

When two or more persons, who are licensed or otherwise authorized to sport fish in the salt waters of Southeast Alaska, are angling for finfish aboard a vessel in these waters, fishing by all authorized persons aboard may continue until combined limits of finfish are taken and possessed aboard the vessel. (Modified wording of California’s regulation to fit SE waters.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Friends and families fishing from a boat generally continue fishing until the combined limits for all persons on board has been reached. Parents often let children catch their fish. Guests are frequently allowed to catch and retain fish on the limits of other persons onboard. This proposal would legalize a very common practice. Additionally, compliance with the existing bag limit regulation contributes to waste through increased release mortality when “excess” fish of one person’s limit must be discarded. These fish could be retained by transferring possession to another, unlimited angler on board. Retention of “extra” fish by others must be ignored by Fish and Wildlife patrol or children, guests, and friends originally catching the “extra” fish should be cited. Washington State and California have regulations allowing ocean boat limits.

PROPOSED BY: James B. Faro (HQ-F14-066)

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish. Allow the use of bow and arrow to take salmon in the Southeast Alaska Area by certified bow anglers, as follows:

Allow salmon to be taken by archery bow and arrow during open fishing season in Southeast Alaska by certified bow-fishers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose a new regulation that would allow personal use fishing with archery bow and arrow. Users would be required to be approved by the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP).

This is a good idea because it would allow archers to catch fish from the beach near creeks where salmon are congregating before going up the stream to spawn. In these areas, it is already legal for fishers to fly fish, spin cast, and snag for personal use. Adding archery would allow additional fishers to share in the resource.

Requiring the IBEP certification ensures safety of the fishery and other fishers. Additionally, this would probably require adding information and procedures required for bow-fishing to the present IBEP approved course.

PROPOSED BY: Eddie E. Carte (EF-C14-038)

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan. Reduce the king salmon size limit from 28 inches or greater in length to 26 inches or greater in length in the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

The minimum size limit for Pacific king salmon will be 26 inches.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have been sport fishing in Southeast Alaska for over 30 years and have witnessed an increase in the number of king salmon that have to be released due to being just under the minimum retention size of 28 inches. Like with Pacific halibut, Pacific king salmon have also experienced a recent reduced size at age phenomena. It is time to consider reducing the minimum size limit of king salmon to better align with the current stock size at age composition. The current 28-inch size limit, which was originally implemented to increase the yield of the fishery, may just be doing the opposite today with an increase in release mortality.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada (EF-C14-105)

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan. Modify the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan by eliminating inseason reductions to the annual limit, as follows:

With the exception of the terminal harvest areas and other special hatchery harvests, efforts should be made to maintain king salmon bag, possession, and annual limits for nonresidents at a constant value throughout the season so as to ensure inside sport fishers the opportunity to access their historical share of the available treaty harvest.

Equally important, level bag limits provide stable marketable opportunities for all guided sport businesses, inside and outside, throughout the entire length of the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident sport fishers make up by far, the greatest percentage of guided anglers in Southeast Alaska, well over 90% in nearly every guided operation. King salmon harvest limits are the most restrictive regulations that the nonresident angler faces, so it follows that king salmon regulations carry more impact than any other harvest issue for the guided industry in Southeast. Sport-caught treaty king salmon are a precious commodity and as such should be allocated very carefully so that all Southeast sport fishers, as much as practical, have their historical opportunity for harvest, particularly in times of low abundance such as we saw in 2013. It is a well-established fact that the “outside” waters of Southeast Alaska have a much greater abundance of treaty kings in general, and especially earlier in the season, that occur “inside.” As a result of that early opportunity outside anglers are able to harvest treaty kings before the inside sport fishery has

even started. The situation this proposal addresses is aggravated when early season bag limits are liberalized (increased) and then progressively ratcheted down as the season goes on, as was the case in 2013. Liberal bag limits early in the season result in a large portion of the sport allocation of previous treaty kings being caught by outside fishers before inside areas even have the chance at harvesting their share of the allocation. Essentially the practice of liberalizing bag limits early in the season then restricting them down in the steps over the course of the season disenfranchises inside nonresident anglers. Harvest data for 2013 are not available as of this writing, but it will be interesting to see if there were skewed area harvest percentages from the historical norms, with the inside harvests being lower than the norm and outside harvests being higher. If that is the case then the concerns that prompted this proposal will be validated.

Of equal concern are the uneven harvest opportunities over the course of a single season presented by progressively changing bag limits. For the guided and lodge industries, customers (almost all of which are nonresidents) pay close attention to regulations that affect their opportunities for success, and they book their trips accordingly. This is no more true than limits for the highly prized king salmon. Changing restrictions changes demand for our products, and uneven marketability within the season causes havoc on our businesses. Guided and lodge operations cannot gear up or gear down as bag limits are altered and demand fluctuates month to month. If nonresident daily bag limits and annual harvest limits are maintained constant as much as possible throughout the length of the season, then outside and inside operators will all benefit in a more stable demand environment.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-013)

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

(2) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1–December 31; no annual limit **for residents. The annual limit for nonresidents is three times the daily bag limit for silver salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and chum salmon;** no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuses to sport fishing bag and possession limits by some nonresident anglers are well known. These behavior patterns by a few nonresidents are contributing to conservation issues on some streams that are difficult to quantify and address. One of the first pieces of information required to assess the impacts of nonresident anglers is to document the total harvest of salmon by this group. Personal use and subsistence fisheries for Chinook, silver, and sockeye salmon generally have annual limits that are recorded in the field on a harvest record. The mail-out harvest survey is inadequate for this type of accounting.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-022)

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Establish nonresident annual limits for coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon in fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

(b)

(2) salmon, other than king salmon: may be taken from January 1–December 31; no annual limit **for residents. The annual limit for nonresidents is three times the daily bag limit for silver salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and chum salmon**; no size limit;

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(c)

...

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PROPOSED BY: Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F14-023)
