

PROPOSAL 102 – 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Amend management plan to allow commercial fishing with set gillnet gear in the Kasilof Section within one-half mile of shore and eliminate the provision allowing commercial fishing with set gillnet gear only within 600 feet of shore in the Kasilof Section, as follows:

Amend and delete (c) (3) after [“if the commissioner determines that further restrictions are necessary to aid in achieving the lower end of the Kenai River escapement goal, the commissioner may, in an emergency order under this paragraph, further restrict fishing to within 600 feet of the high tide mark in the Kasilof Section.]

Amend (c) (4) that if the KRSHA opens, it shall be in conjunction with opening at the least one-half mile from shore in the Kasilof Section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is the 600 ft. opening provision in the Kasilof plan. Direct EO abuse and use of the 600 ft provision that was outside the intent of the Board over one-half mile openings in the Kasilof Section.

The provision in the current plan is attached to a management objective, the commissioner can open to 600 ft and further restrict area waters normally open in order to meet the minimum Kenai late-run sockeye goal if necessary.

However, the Commissioner’s EO were repeatedly used to “reduce Kasilof River sockeye escapements.” Including, one opening to within 600 ft. to reduce both Kasilof River sockeye escapement and conserve Kenai late-run king salmon when the Department projected the Kenai late-run king salmon in-river goal was well over 22,500 fish during the EO order dated July 21, 2015 and when the in-river run projection was above 28,800 fish

In fact, the one half-mile opening caught six times the number of sockeye and less Kenai late-run king salmon. In fact, the Kasilof escapement goal was exceeded and repeatedly occurred over the last 5 years. Clearly, in the past the Department only utilized one-half mile openings and consistent with the BOF intent within the KRSHA states: Before the commissioner opens the KRSHA, it is the Boards intent that additional fishing time be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first”....

And, clearly under (c) (4) after July 8, if the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery is restricted to within first one-half mile of shore, the commissioner may open the KRSHA... However this directive was abused as an EO half-mile opening occurred well after the KRSHA being opened.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Ducker (HQ-F16-100)
