

PROPOSAL 119 – 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

Amend management plan to achieve inriver goal range of 850,000–1,050,000 late-run sockeye salmon at run strengths less than 2.3 million sockeye salmon and 950,000–1,150,000 late-run sockeye salmon at run strengths greater than 2.3 million sockeye salmon, as follows:

Reformat the provisions to express two management inriver goal ranges and delete third tier in management.

Amend to achieve an inriver goal range of 850,000 – 1,050,000 late-run sockeye salmon on runs under 2.3 million. Runs greater than 2.3 million an inriver goal range of 950,000 – 1,150,000.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Consecutive and repeated spawning escapement that exceed the upper SEG ranges on runs above 2.3 million while not maintaining or evenly distributing sockeye salmon escapements within the range.

In addition, the three tier inriver goal ranges are misrepresented in current regulations in a number of ways. For example, the first tier table (ADF&G, RC 213) Bendix to DIDSON was correctly stated as 850,00 (700,000 plus 150,000)–1,050,000 as inriver allocation was set as 150,000 on runs less than 2.3 million while the second and third tier was incorrectly formatted upwards from the inriver allocations considered by the BOF. Compounding the issue is the SEG range of 700,000 – 1,200,000 in DIDSON units was rounded up at the upper range in 100,000 units instead of 50,000 increments, i.e. the upper SEG range should be closer expressed at 1,100,000 spawners instead.

The Kenai late-run sockeye salmon goal was managed for decades under one inriver goal range which clearly presented the missions and duties to the department to manage to within the BEG/SEG escapement goal range. The risk on Yield, the Sustained Yields within the SEG range are expressed biologically and scientifically to maintain recruitments of 4 to 5 recruits per spawner. Instead, risk increased to diminished Yields (2 recruits per spawner) when exceeding the upper range which has occurred regularly under the tiers.

The third tier has only caused the department to exceed the upper end of the SEG range and further caused a complete inability to manage to within the range or mid-point of the SEG range. Furthermore the inriver sport allocation on runs above 4.6 million is not affected with the third tier removed, in fact by doing so places spawning escapements within the established SEG range.

The board needs to address habitat loss for appropriate modification of the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon inriver goal.

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