

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area. Prohibit all guiding from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., as follows:

I recommend applying the hourly limitations to all guided fishing. Hence, guides would be limited to the hours of 6:00 am to 6:00 pm regardless of whether the fishing takes place from a guide vessel or on the bank. I suggest a regulation stating: All guided fishing shall be limited to the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Local residents and unguided non-guided anglers would then have a fair chance to access the sockeye salmon fishery before 6:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial fishing guides are blocking access to the sockeye fishery for local residents and non-guided anglers. The sockeye fishery is primarily a bank fishery and excessive numbers of fishing guides are occupying all fishing spots in the Kenai Middle Section of the River from as early as 4:00 am until 10:00 pm. The 6:00 am to 6:00 pm limitation of 5 AAC 57140(c) only applies to fishing from guide vessels. Further, some guides actually use non-fishing personnel to hold spots while they bring up new clients. This prevents local residents and non-guided anglers from having a chance to access the fishery during reasonable hours..

PROPOSED BY: Ted Wellman

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