

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Increase the number of days only non-motorized vessels may fish on the lower Kenai River, as follows:

An extra day of fishing from an non-motorized boat from January 1 to December 31. An example is Monday and Thursdays will be non-motorized boats only fishing on the Kenai River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is overcrowding on the lower Kenai River from Skilak to the mouth and the poor quality of the fishing experience to lots of people. This will also cut down on the erosion along the banks of the river.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Corr (EF-F16-113)

PROPOSAL 179 – 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Add Thursdays as a day only non-motorized vessels may fish on the Kenai River downstream of Cunningham Park, as follows:

The purpose of this change is to add a Thursday Drift-only day on the lower portion of the Kenai River in addition to the already existing Drift-only Monday.

Change Drift only section header to read:

Drift-only days (downstream of Skilak Lake):

[DRIFT-ONLY MONDAYS (DOWNSTREAM OF SKILAK LAKE)

Add to Drift –only section;

- **Thursdays, May 1 – July 31 (except Memorial Day)**
- **Between the Sterling Hwy bridge and the mouth of the Kenai River:**
- **Closed to fishing from any motorized vessel that has on board more than one single motor greater than 10hp. A motor 10hp or less may be used only downstream of an ADF&G marker at Cunningham Park, and only after fishing from the vessel has stopped for the day.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Heavy, high density motorized vessel use is responsible for excessive turbidity, increased erosion, and safety issues. There are other social issues associated with crowding that are compounded by motorized vessel use in the current configuration of the fishery. Another drift day on the river, open to both guided and unguided anglers with no time restrictions, will help address hydrological and social issues and may promote more folks to invest in resource friendly drift boats. This would also reduce the exploitation of Late Run (LR) Chinook on the Kenai and allow more fish to move upriver and disperse during subsequent days. A 2011, ADF&G memo regarding driftboat harvest states, **“The creel estimates for late-run Mondays were approximately 4.2% of the total late-run harvests in both 2009 and 2010.”** New boat use patterns indicate that most of the Chinook fishing is now taking place in the lower portion of the river.

Our proposal seeks to offer an additional day of drift boat use below the Soldotna Bridge while still allowing for motorized use for the majority of the river above the bridge. This “split-use philosophy is in keeping with conclusions in the 2010 DNR Kenai River Recreational Study that says, **“ The majority of driftboat users (80%), drift boat guides (85%), and bank anglers (55%) support additional “drift-only” days on the lower and middle river, while the majority of powerboat users (50%) and powerboat guides (70%) are opposed. Opinions about “drift-only” days on one segment at a time suggest “compromise” options may be workable. There is little consensus about the best times for “drift-only” days, but support is greatest in higher density periods.”**

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition (HQ-F16-004)

PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 57.180. Riparian Habitat Fishery Management Plan for the Kenai River Drainage Area. Establish two Kenai River riparian habitat areas equal to approximately nine-tenths of a mile that will be closed to fishing from shore within 10 feet of the waterline from July 1 – August 15, as follows:

5 AAC 57.180(d) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(26) on the north bank of the Kenai River, between ADF&G regulatory markers located at river mile 13.3 and river mile 14.0;

(27) on the north bank of the Kenai River, between ADF&G regulatory markers located at river mile 13.0 and river mile 13.2.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Management authority of these state-owned parcels of land along the Kenai River was assigned to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to implement the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council’s objective to restore, enhance, and rehabilitate natural resources injured by the oil spill. The parcels are also subject to a third-party conservation easement. The warranty deed and conservation easement include restrictive

covenants that prohibit public access, including sport fishing, along the Kenai River shoreline of this parcel. This proposal would implement warranty deed and conservation easement restrictions for the parcels through regulation rather than by annual issuance of an emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-142)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annul, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. and 5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Only non-motorized vessels may be used when fishing on the Kenai River, as follows:

Make Kenai River drift boat only. Supposedly the whole river is a park.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Habitat report shows habitat loss. No action has been taken since 1997 zero net loss of habitat Dr. White. Guides, dipnetters, and in-river traffic all remain unlimited. Why? No kings.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs (HQ-F16-089)
