

PROPOSAL 197

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Simplify current freshwater sport fishing regulations for king salmon in freshwater drainages of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(g)(10) is amended to read:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(10) in the freshwater drainages that drain into the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, described in 5 AAC 47.021(g)(1),

(A) the bag **and possession** limit for king salmon, [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,] is **ten** [FIVE] fish, **no size limit; and**

(B) **repealed** / / ; THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR KING SALMON, LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH, IS FIVE FISH; AND]

(C) a king salmon taken by a nonresident does not count towards the nonresident annual limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wild king salmon stocks are not present in the freshwater drainages of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area. Liberal king salmon bag and possession limits in these drainages provide incentive and opportunity for anglers to harvest surplus hatchery fish that have strayed. The current regulatory separation between allowed size categories (five king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and five fish less than 28 inches in length) are not biologically necessary and add unnecessary regulatory complexity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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