

PROPOSAL 88

5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Require fish wheels to be closely attended during times of conservation for any species, as follows:

Fishwheels must be manned at all times when any catch and release of King salmon or other species is required in an executed fishery. There is to be no livebox holding and release of restricted species required to be not kept, river wide. Restricted species are defined as ones for which a biological concern exists in an area for them and no harvest is allowed. (Recent example would be the King Salmon and area being Yukon River.) (Note: This was written as to not interfere with more sound fish wheel release practices being considered and/or used at present by management such as live chute releasing of King salmon which does not use any live box holding methods.) The Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM) supported this proposal submission unanimously.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fishwheel Liveboxes: TRM is concerned about present regulations allowing and further attempts to increase fish wheels as a legal means of targeting one species (such as chum salmon) while releasing another species (such as King salmon). Many of the methods of holding, release and equipment used are being portrayed as non-harmful ways of dealing with bycatch. TRM members come from an area of high fish wheel use and many are very familiar with the number of studies (mostly USFWS in this area) done on fish wheel live box holding and general fish wheel operation and how it affects caught and released fish. We feel these issues have been sufficiently neglected in management and BOF actions in the past, despite the literature presented to them and concerns voiced to management, and at YRDFA and BOF meetings, that a regulation against it needs to be clearly on the books.

Note: This exact proposal was submitted at the last BOF cycle. It had what seemed to be much board support especially when the studies associated with liveboxes were discussed. The night before deliberation ADF&G changed the wording of the discussed proposal to essentially allow for what we were proposing against and the BOF passed their changed proposal – I believe not realizing what had been done. We had to sit there and accept it unable to speak.

PROPOSED BY: Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-048)
