

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan.

Allow the use of bait and modify maximum size above Slikok Creek when the escapement goal range is projected to be exceeded, as follows:

~NEW LANGUAGE: 21.359 (c)(1)

(c) In the sport fishery,

(1) if the sustainable escapement goal is projected to be exceeded, the commissioner may, by emergency order, liberalize the sport fishery using one or more of the following methods after July 1, except for that portion from an ADF&G marker located approximately 300 yards downstream of Slikok Creek upstream to an ADF&G marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake which can be liberalized after July 15: [extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August]

(i) extend the sport fishing season up to seven days during the first week of August;

(ii) allow the use of bait;

(iii) modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issues are overcrowding of anglers in the lower Kenai River and that there is not enough opportunity available for the harvest of King salmon above Slikok Creek in years of high abundance. Currently, the lower Kenai river is overcrowded during the king fishery and allowing the department to liberalize fishing opportunity upstream of Slikok Creek would ease this congestion and thus would also provide the department additional tools for management of the fishery.

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