

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* to prioritize achieving the lower end of the Kenai River late-run king salmon escapement goal, as follows:

(b) Achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal **and the lower end of the Kenai River late-run king salmon goal** shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal range of 160,000-390,000 sockeye salmon.

KRSA recommends no change in the Kasilof River optimum escapement goal – this goal continues to be appropriate for management of mixed stock commercial salmon fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet and recent escapement goal analyses have demonstrated that corresponding escapements within the OEG will continue to provide high levels of production and yield of Kasilof River sockeye.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current plans do not provide adequate protection for Kenai or Kasilof late-run kings particularly during years of moderate to large Kasilof and/or Kenai sockeye returns. The current Kasilof salmon management plan provides guidance for prioritizing the minimum escapement goal of Kenai sockeye over the high end of the Kasilof sockeye escapement goal during periods of low Kenai sockeye abundance. However, it does not provide similar guidance with respect to the low end of the Kenai late-run king escapement goals. Meeting the low ends of escapement goals should always take precedence over not exceeding the high ends of other escapement goals due to the large impact on low escapements on future returns, particularly during extended periods of reduced ocean survival like we are currently seeing for kings throughout Cook Inlet.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F19-123)
