

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan.

Increase the bag limit for the Kenai River coho salmon sport fishery to three fish July 1 – August 31, as follows:

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan (a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of coho salmon into the Kenai River drainage and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Kenai River coho salmon stocks primarily to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run. (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this chapter, for the conservation of coho salmon stocks, the department shall manage sport fishing in the Kenai River drainage as follows: (1) coho salmon fishing is closed in the Middle and Upper Sections from November 1 through June 30, and in the Lower Section from December 1 through June 30; any coho salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately without further harm; (2) repealed 6/4/2008; (3) coho salmon may be taken as follows: (A) from July 1 through October 31, in the Middle and Upper Sections; (B) from July 1 through November 30, in the Lower Section; (C) from July 1 through August 31, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is **three** fish;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the last board cycle, reallocation of early run coho tied into the 1% rule. During the last cycle, commercial fishing declared that there was a surplus of early run cohos. This surplus was available because the sport fishery bag limit had been reduced from 3 fish to 2. KRPGA did not submit a proposal to go to a 3 fish bag limit as we were unsure of current health of early run coho stocks.

Although we are still uncertain of those stocks, we feel certain that sportfish were reallocated to commercial fishers in the last cycle and used to negotiate moving the 1% rule to August 7.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Professional Guide Association (HQ-F19-070)
