

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Establish a sport fishing season for king salmon in the Dog Salmon River, as follows:

5 AAC 64.022 is amended to read:

(b)(1) in addition to the waters specified in 5 AAC 64.051, the following waters are closed to sport fishing for salmon, as follows:

(E) the **Dog Salmon River (including Frazer Lake)**, Ayakulik and Karluk River drainages are closed to sport fishing for king salmon from July 26 – December 31;

[(F) THE DOG SALMON RIVER DRAINAGE (INCLUDING FRAZER LAKE) IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31;]

(10) in the Dog Salmon River (including Frazer Lake); king salmon may not be retained or possessed;

5 AAC 64.030(e) is added:

(e) In the Dog Salmon River drainage (including Frazer Lake) the use of bait is prohibited from January 1-July 25;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon were stocked in the Dog Salmon River drainage from 1966 through 1970. Success of this stocking effort has been varied and overall returns have been low: escapements have ranged from fewer than 40 fish to nearly 800 fish since monitoring began in 1983. In the 1980's, regulations were adopted to close the river to sport fishing for king salmon in order to protect returning king salmon in hopes of establishing a spawning population before a fishery was developed. Stocking has not occurred for more than 40 years and the run is currently considered a wild stock. This proposal will remove sport fishing restrictions on the Dog Salmon River drainage and allow anglers to catch king salmon where they could not previously, while still managing the sport fishery conservatively. Commercial and subsistence fisheries in the area annually harvest king salmon, of which the Dog Salmon River drainage stock is the only king salmon run in proximity to the fisheries, and have been doing so since returns began to the drainage. A limited sport fishery will provide angler opportunity in an area where little exists for king salmon, while also having a limited impact on Dog Salmon River king salmon production.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-142)
