

**PROPOSAL 84**

**5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

Clarify the requirement of immediately releasing king salmon over 20 inches, as follows:

Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 56.122 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, the following are the general seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means that apply to sport fishing for finfish in the Kenai Peninsula Area: (1) king salmon (A) 20 inches or greater in length may not be retained or possessed; the season is closed for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; a king salmon caught that is 20 inches or greater in length must be released immediately without returning to shore; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish; **(i) any king salmon netted from a vessel must be released from the net from the vessel immediately.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Anglers hooking king salmon from a vessel, dragging them to the beach or shallow water, then releasing causes undue harm to the fish. This puts additional stress on large fish in shallow water. These fish are then subject to injury and structural damage. Once at the shore, release time is unnecessarily delayed. This will provide additional language that will clear any gray area in the definition of “released immediately” in the regulation at this time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hanes

(HQ-F19-068)

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