

PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create sport and personal use allocations of sockeye on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, as follows:

Under season limits in the regulation book.

Kenai River Sockeye dip net season limit is xxxxxx fish.

Kasilof River Sockeye dip net season limit is xxxxxx fish.

Kenai River Sockeye sports fishery season limit is xxxxxx fish.

Kasilof River Sockeye sports fishery season limit is xxxxxx fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to set a total allocation on the number of sockeye salmon for the Kenai and Kasilof dip net fishery and the Kenai and Kasilof inriver sport fisheries. By allocating a number to each fishery, and placing these numbers into management plans, these users would know how many fish they could harvest. This would hopefully eliminate the ongoing practice of always taking fish from another user group. I believe that the BOF and ADF&G have neglected their duty to the State of Alaska and our local community and users of this resource by not setting annual limits. The lack of a defined annual limit just adds fuel to the “fish wars” fire by not addressing this subject. For example, if the Kenai River dip net fishery had a harvest limit, they would know these fish were theirs and they could form rules to harvest accordingly. The current dip net fishery on the Kenai River is very successful. The same goes for the Kenai River sport fishery. If growth controls are not implemented on these user groups, the Kenai and Kasilof salmon fisheries will eventually fail or they will mandate the entire commercial fishery be closed to meet their unlimited demands. Without limits, as these fisheries are allowed to grow, we will witness the depletion of the salmon, and increased habitat destruction (note the Kenai River is already classified as an impaired water body during July).

In order for this regulation to work, an accurate daily count of the harvested salmon must be accounted for. Each user group can derive a harvest accountability system that works for them.

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