

Regulatory Alignment (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 1

5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan.

Redefine the area the management plan encompasses to include all waters north of Bluff Point, as follows:

5 AAC 58.055 is amended to read:

(b) The Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Area consists of all salt waters [FROM APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE] north of [THE NINILCHIK RIVER MOUTH (60° 03.00' N. LAT.) EXTENDING SOUTH TO] the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the summer in Upper Cook Inlet north of Bluff Point, there are two areas with differing sport fishing regulations. The first area includes the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan area from the latitude of Bluff Point north to the latitude one mile north of the Ninilchik River and the second area is all remaining salt waters north. This proposal seeks to simplify regulations by including all salt waters north of Bluff Point into the plan. This change would not result in any significant effect to anglers. Effort in salt waters north of the one mile north of the Ninilchik River latitude is unknown but assumed low.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-153)

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 56.122. Special Provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Align gear restrictions for lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams in waters closed to salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122 is amended to read:

(a)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek reservoir:

(A) [IN FLOWING WATERS, FROM JULY 1 – JULY 15 AND FROM SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31,] only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) July 1 – July 15 and from September 1 – October 31 from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge,

(ii) from August 1 – October 31 upstream from an ADF&G marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge

(a)(5) Deep Creek drainage:

(A) [FROM JULY 1 – JULY 15 AND FROM SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31, IN FLOWING WATERS,] only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) July 1 – July 15 and from September 1 – October 31 from its mouth to ADF&G markers located 2 miles upstream,

(ii) from August 1 – October 31 upstream of ADF&G markers located 2 approximately miles upstream from its mouth,

(a)(6) Ninilchik River drainage:

(A) [FROM SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31, IN FLOWING WATERS,] only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) from September 1 – October 31 from its mouth to ADF&G markers located 2 miles upstream,

(ii) from August 1 – October 31 upstream of ADF&G markers located approximately 2 miles upstream from its mouth,

(a)(10) Stariski Creek drainage:

(A) [IN FLOWING WATERS, FROM JULY 1- JULY 15 AND FROM SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31] only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used

(i) from July 1 – October 31 from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge,

(ii) from August 1 – October 31 upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the sport fishing gear regulations are aligned for the entire drainage by date for the Lower Kenai Peninsula roadside streams, which include the Anchor and Ninilchik rivers and Deep and Stariski creeks. The use of bait in these streams primarily occurs for king and coho salmon and fishing for those species is restricted to the lower sections. Due to progressively later king salmon run timing, the use of bait has been restricted in the first two weeks of July in the lower stream sections, which are closed to king salmon fishing during that time. Currently, anglers may use bait in the upstream stream sections during August when king salmon are actively spawning.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-151)
