

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan. and 5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.

Amend the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* to manage for an average sport harvest of 20% of the sport/troll allocation with commensurate regulations addressing sport fishery overages in the commercial troll fishery, as follows:)

Restore the mechanics of Southeast Alaska king salmon management to previous practices to achieve an average sport harvest—over time—of 20% of the annual all-gear treaty allocation after subtraction of commercial net allowances.

Remove specified allocations from within sport management tiers, and prescribe bag and annual limits for each tier that will achieve an average sport treaty harvest—over time—of 20% after net subtractions. Recent data analysis by the department shows the following bag and annual limits would work to reach this objective. Other combinations of bag and annual limits could be used to achieve the same outcome.

- (c) A resident bag limit of 3 king salmon; a non-resident bag limit of 1 king salmon, with an annual limit of 3 king salmon.
- (d) A resident bag limit of 3 king salmon; a non-resident bag limit of 1 king salmon, with an annual limit of 3 king salmon.
- (e) A resident bag limit of 2 king salmon; a non-resident bag limit of 1 king salmon, with an annual limit of 3 king salmon.
- (f) A resident bag limit of 2 king salmon; a non-resident bag limit of 1 king salmon, with an annual limit of 3 king salmon from January 1 through June 30, and annual limit of 2 king salmon from July 1 through July 31, and an annual limit of 1 king salmon from August 1 through December 31.
- (g) A resident bag limit of 1 king salmon; a non-resident bag limit of 1 king salmon, with an annual limit of 3 king salmon from January 1 through June 30, and annual limit of 2 king salmon from July 1 through July 31, and an annual limit of 1 king salmon from August 1 through December 31. If resident anglers forego king harvest due to wild stock closures, a resident bag limit of 2 king salmon in the areas affected by closures for the balance of the year.
- (h) A resident bag limit of 1 king salmon; a non-resident bag limit of 1 king salmon, with an annual limit of 3 king salmon from January 1 through June 30, and annual limit of 2 king salmon from July 1 through July 31, and an annual limit of 1 king salmon from August 1 through December 31. If resident anglers forego king harvest due to wild stock closures, a resident bag limit of 2 king salmon in the areas affected by closures for the balance of the year.
- (i) Sport limits to be determined by the Commissioner.

These bag and annual limit combinations purposefully result in sport harvest above and below 20% of the combined troll/sport depending on tier. The annual troll/sport combined treaty allocation would be met by adjusting troll harvest up or down as needed to meet annual allocation goals.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest reductions and payback provisions in the 2018 Treaty Annex resulted in a different approach to sport management by the department. The new approach specifies sport allocations by tier instead of aiming for an

average 80/20 allocation split between troll and sport over time and across tiers. The result is insufficient harvest opportunity for the sport fishery during low abundance.

The Board of Fisheries made stopgap modifications to the king management plan for 2019-2020, but revisions are necessary to allow uninterrupted sport fishing for king salmon in salt waters, minimize restrictions on resident anglers, and eliminate in-season sport regulatory changes moving forward.

Sport management in prior plans allowed sport harvest to exceed 20% of the combined troll/sport allocation during low abundance years, and allowed troll to exceed 80% of the combined troll/sport allocation in high abundance years. The result across time was an average troll/sport relationship of 80/20. Though this was the practice for decades, it was not completely spelled out in regulation. This proposal seeks to return troll/sport management back to earlier mechanics and clearly define it in regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Guides Organization

(HQ-F20-097)
