

PROPOSAL 1

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

Amend the *Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan* as follows:

5 AAC 58.055 is amended to read:

...

(g) if the Anchor River preseason forecast or inseason projection is less than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 – 6,400 king salmon, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) within a mile of shore shall be closed to the retention of king salmon from May 15 to July 15; if the Kenai River is closed as specified in 5 AAC 57.160, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59 40) shall be closed to the taking of king salmon from May 15 to July 15;

(h) if the Kenai River is closed to the taking of king salmon as specified in 5 AAC 21.359, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point shall be closed to the taking of king salmon from June 20 through August 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Due to low productivity of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks and in combination with emergency order (EO) restrictions and closures to freshwater sport fisheries, the upper Cook Inlet summer salt water king salmon sport fishery has been restricted by EO in 12 of the last 15 years. This fishery has also been closed in several recent years by EO in July as specified in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*. Although management actions for the late-run are prescribed in the *Late-Run Plan*, currently no management actions for the early-run stocks are outlined in any plans for this fishery. By specifying the actions in a management plan, the public and the Alaska Board of Fisheries have the opportunity to provide input on the fishery structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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