

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Allow guiding on the Kenai River on Sundays and Mondays if king salmon fishery is closed as follows:

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...

(b) Downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, a person may not sport fish from a registered guide vessel on any Sunday from May 1 through July 31, and on any Monday in July, except that a person may fish from a registered sport fishing guide vessel during the last two Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June under the terms of a permit issued by the commissioner, for approved charitable nonprofit organizations or for educational public service activities. **In effect unless the king salmon fishery is closed due to Emergency Order (EO). In that case open to sport fishing on Mondays and Sundays from the start of the closure date during May 1-July 31.**

(c) From May 1 through July 31, sport fishing from a registered sport fishing guide vessel downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is permitted only from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **In effect unless the king salmon fishery is closed due to EO. In that case open to sport fish all days of the week and all hours of the day from the start of the closure date during May 1-July 31.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulations that are in place during the King Salmon sport fishing season (No guiding from a vessel Mondays and Sundays and guiding from a vessel only open Tuesday-Saturday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) on the Kenai River (May 1-July 31) were put into place for two main reasons. The first being for the conservation of the King salmon; relieving fishing pressure by restricting the days and the hours that guides may fish for them. The second aspect being a social one, allowing the private anglers time and opportunity to fish for king salmon without having to compete with guides on the river.

When the king salmon sport fishery is closed due to Emergency Order (EO) these regulations are no longer applicable or needed. The result of keeping them in place drastically limits the available fishing opportunities for guides. This puts a disproportional amount of pressure on the remaining available fisheries and bank locations on the river. In the last several years during EO closures this resulted in raised tensions and conflict between guides and locals over the limited locations and fishing options.

I propose that when the king salmon sport fishery is closed due to EO (May 1-July 31) in removing the special restrictions from guided sport vessel on the Kenai River, allowing guides to target other species from a vessel such as trout, silvers or pinks during their legal seasons at all hours of the day. As follows:

Closed to sport fishing Sundays and Mondays (except Memorial Day) May 1-July 31. **In effect unless the king salmon fishery is closed due to Emergency Order (EO). In that case open to sport fishing on Mondays and Sundays from the start of the closure date during May 1-July 31.**

Sport Fishing is only allowed Tuesday-Saturday from 6a.m. to 6 p.m. **In effect unless the king salmon fishery is closed due to EO. In that case open to sport fish all days of the week and all hours of the day from the start of the closure date during May 1-July 31.**

PROPOSED BY: Eric Loomis

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