

**PROPOSAL 160**

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

Limit guided activities on the Kenai River from May 1–July 31 as follows:

Modify 5AAC 57.140 to read:

...

(b) Downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake, a person may not engage in guided sport fishing [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.

(c) From May 1 through July 31, guided sport fishing [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.

An acceptable alternative to this proposal would be to limit guides to one boatload of clients per day, however without a requirement for guides to keep freshwater logbooks, this would be hard to enforce. I'd encourage the BOF to push the use of freshwater logbooks on the Kenai and Kasilof - not only for accountability for commercial operators, but for valuable in season data those logbooks provide local managers.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There has been a strategic shift by Kenai inriver commercial operators from guided King fishing to guided Sockeye fishing. Use and traffic is likely as high as it was during the busy years of the King fishery, but the fact that Sockeye fishing is shore-based has allowed the guide industry to avoid the old (King-based) rules of no guiding on Sunday, no powerboats on Monday, and guided operations being limited from 6am to 6pm. The guided sockeye fishery is a 24/7 operation, with guides working in teams to transport fishermen to accessible sockeye fishing locations with no limits on hours of operation, trips per day, no closed days, and no limit on the number of free guide permits handed out. Areas normally closed to bank fishing are often still accessible by anchoring and exiting the boat in the river. The majority of this action occurs directly on top of King salmon spawning and rearing areas. We need some updated regs to maintain sideboards on this new industry.

**PROPOSED BY:** Todd Smith

(HQ-F23-072)

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