

PROPOSAL 252

5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area and 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Increase the bag and possession for salmon, other than king salmon as follows:

5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area.

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(18) In all freshwater drainages open to salmon fishing entering Turnagain Arm south of Bird Creek and continuing along the arm shoreline and Kenai Peninsula shoreline to the Northern District boundary,

(A) the bag and possession limit for salmon other than king salmon, 16 inches or more in length, is three fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? From our recollection in 2000 most coho salmon bag and possession limits throughout the Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, and Turnagain Arm were reduced from 3 fish daily and in possession to 2 fish daily and in possession as a paired restrictions conservation package where the Northern District set net fishery was restricted to fishing one net per permit holder from July 20 — August 10 under an Upper Cook Inlet Coho Salmon Conservation Plan.

Since that time the set net fishery has been liberalized by allowing Northern District permit holders with more than one permit to fish additional gear (permit stacking). The dates for fishing with restricted nets has been shortened by the board to July 20 – August 6. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has often allowed Northern District set netters in the Eastern Subdistrict to use twice as many nets as set netters in the General Subdistrict during the July 20 — August 6 period, by emergency order.

Since the Northern District Salmon Management Plan directs the fishery to be managed to provide reasonable harvest opportunity for both commercial and inriver users throughout the entire season, and in light of the above listed harvest liberalizations for Eastern District set gill netters harvesting primarily Turnagain Arm salmon stocks, we request that the coho salmon bag and possession limit for Turnagain Arm salmon stocks in drainages south of Bird Creek and continuing along the Turnagain Arm and Cook Inlet shoreline all the way to the Northern District boundary once again be increased to 3 salmon (all of which may be coho salmon). If the department has data justifying an increased level of harvest opportunity for Turnagain Arm salmon stocks, then per the management plan, it only seems fair that sport anglers should also share in this increased salmon harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Sportfishing Association

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