

PROPOSAL 259 (formerly ACR 13) – 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan. Amend the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* so that the sport fishery does not exceed the annual sport fishery harvest ceiling, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055(b)(2) is amended to read:

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

- (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;
- (2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling;
- (3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and
- (4) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? On March 20, 2022, at the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish Board of Fisheries meeting a signed agreement (RC178) between Alaska Trollers Association (ATA), Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO), and Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. was adopted. In the most recent regulatory update of January 2023 that agreement language was different and was adopted incorrectly under Register 244. The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* changed sport fishery management actions including as far as allowing a no inseason management regime. This incorrectly liberalizes the sport fishery king salmon harvest and is contrary to Alaska’s Sustainable Fisheries Policy. Managing the sport fishery under a plan based on a language error has caused the sport fishery to significantly exceed its allocation in 2023 with the potential to continue to do so in the future.

This error makes the management of the SEAK sport fishery contrary to the International Pacific Salmon Treaty language, Alaska’s Sustainable Fisheries Policy, and Alaska’s long-term practice of inseason management. Under 5 AAC 47.055 existing language, the sport fishery would likely exceed its allocation more often and by a greater amount, requiring reduced harvest in other Southeast Alaska king salmon fisheries. In 2023, the SEAK sport harvest is forecast to exceed its harvest allocation by 15,000 king salmon or roughly 40%.

PROPOSED BY: David Richey and Monique Wilkinson
