

PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

Expand weekly time-period “windows” where the commercial salmon fishery is closed as follows:

Extend the weekend window from 36 to 48 hours under paired restrictions and in the two lower sockeye run tiers under normal sockeye management.

5 AAC 21.359 Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan

(e)(3) ...

- (A) if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 48 hours per week, with a **48-hour** [36-HOUR] continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;
- (B) if the use of bait and the retention of king salmon greater than 34 inches in length as defined in 5 AAC 75.995(a) are prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(B) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 36 hours per week, with a **48-hour** [36-HOUR] continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;
- (C) if the use of bait and the retention of king salmon prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(C) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 24 hours per week, with a **48-hour** [36-HOUR] continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;

5 ACC 21.360 Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

(c) ...

- (1) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon, ...

(C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous 48-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday;

- (2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 - 4,600,000 sockeye salmon, ...

(C) the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be closed for one continuous **48-hour** [36-HOUR] period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday and for one continuous 24-hour period per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Monday and 7:00 a.m. Wednesday;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Both the Kenai King and Kenai late-run Sockeye Management plans currently require a 36-hour continuous closure beginning between 7:00 pm Thursday and 7:00 pm Friday. These windows pass regular pulses of salmon escapement into the river when fish are returning, distribute escapements over the duration of the run and also provide opportunity to the inriver personal use and sport fisheries over the weekend.

Recent practice has extended the window from fishery closure on Thursday through Sunday. Hour limits on the east side set net fishery produce significant periods of no fishing during the week. The 48-hour windows schedule the no-fishing period around the weekend for maximum effect and

provide the personal use and sport fisheries to help manage for sockeye escapement goals by maximizing harvest during weekend periods of high effort.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F23-081)
