

PROPOSAL 92

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

Exempt the East Foreland Section from ‘paired restriction’ measures in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* as follows:

This proposal is that the regulation exempting the East Forelands (244-42) as it did in the 2017-2019 regulation book be put back in place.

Prior wording of 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3): in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishery, excluding the East Foreland Section, notwithstanding the provisions of 5AAC 21.360(c)(1)(B), 2(B) and (3)(B), based on abundance of sockeye salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers....

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the 2020 Cook Inlet Board of Fish meetings, the East Forelands sub section (244-42) exemption was removed and it was placed under the paired king salmon restrictions of 5AAC 21.359 with no rationale provided. During the prior cycle (2017-2019), the East Forelands section was exempt from the paired restrictions in 21.359. There was no data presented at the 2020 meeting which would have shown this inclusion to be science or evidence based, and no discussion occurred when the exemption was removed. Data taken from the ADFG website and verified by F&G staff, shows that over the last 10 yrs, the East Forelands section has a catch average of just 1.62% of the total kings caught in the East Side Set Net fishery (all sizes and stock origins, no differentiation/data for “large kings”). This limited king catch can allow, and should make it, a valuable management tool to harvest sockeye and help attain the Kenai River escapement goal without impacting king salmon abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Alldrin, Mary Alldrin, Richard Hilleary, Rick Jewell, Merrill McGahan, Chris Monfor, Christine Monfor, Chris Parker, Amanda Waggoner, Chad Waggoner, Brenda Vincent, Mark Vincent, Dan Wysocki (EF-F23-142)
