

**PROPOSAL 97**

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

Amend the Kenai Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan to provide additional fishing opportunity in the sport and set gillnet commercial fisheries as follows:

**5 AAC 21.359. (C) (i) between ADFG preseason projection of 13,500-15,000 large Kenai River king salmon, the use of bait and retention of king salmon is 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 continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 am Friday. Set net gear will be limited to one (1) net per permit, not more than 29 meshes deep. After July 20, if the OEG for large king salmon cannot be projected for the Kenai River, the in-river king salmon sport fishery will close, the Upper Subdistrict set net fishery will close until the OEG can be projected.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under 5 AAC 21.359 (d), If the projected late-run king salmon escapement is less than 15,000 king salmon 75 cm mid eye to tail fork and longer, the department shall close..... (1) (2) (3). (1) closes sport fisheries, (2) closes drift fleet area within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline, north of the Kenai River and one and one-half miles south of the Kenai River. (3) closes the set net fishery in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District. This proposal addresses fishing opportunities, for sport and commercial fishermen, under the KRLRKSMP. If the preseason estimate for large King Salmon to the Kenai River is between the 13,500 (SEG) and 15,000 (OEG), in this proposal, ADFG would make an in-season assessment of the Kenai River Late Run King Salmon after July 20. This would be the 33% quartile of the run. This would be consistent with 5 AAC 21.360 Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Under this plan, ADFG makes the determination of run strength of sockeye to the Kenai River after July 20. Then depending on their projection of run strength appropriate regulatory actions are taken. I am not sure where to put this in the KRLRKSMP, but it would be the INTENT of the Board of Fish (BOF), that whenever the preseason estimate is between 13,500 - 15,000 large King Salmon to the Kenai River, the following action will be taken by ADFG. 1. The sport fishery in the Kenai River would be open for catch and release, no bait, single hook. 2. The East Side Set Net (ESSN) fishery would be open for 24 hours per week. Gear would be restricted to one net per permit, not more than 29 meshes deep. (This is a 78.5% reduction in gear, that is allowed, by CFEC, for set net permit holders in Cook Inlet.) There would be a 36 hour continuous closure per week between 7:00 pm Thursday and 7:00 am Friday. After July 20 if the OEG is not projected, the king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River will close. The ESSN fishery will close until the OEG can be projected.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary L Hollier

(EF-F23-025)

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