

*Kenai/Kasilof River King Salmon (5 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 146**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Align the Kenai River Drainage Area method and means provisions with the season dates for Kenai River king salmon as follows:

5 AAC 57.120(2)(A) is amended to read:

...

(a)(2)(A)(iv) from January 1 — [July 14] **July 31**, a person may not possess a king salmon that has been filleted, headed, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in a manner that prevents determination of the length of fish taken until the fish is permanently offloaded from a vessel if the fish was taken from a vessel or permanently transported away from the fishing site if the fish was taken from the riverbank; for the purposes of this sub-subparagraph, “fishing site” means the riverbank where the fish was hooked and removed from the water becoming part of the angler’s bag limit

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The dates prohibiting anglers from filleting, removing heads, or mutilating king salmon that prevents the determination of length before permanently offloading from a vessel (if taken by vessel) or permanently transported away from a fishing site do not align with the king salmon season end date (July 31) for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-010)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 147**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Modify the Kenai River king salmon annual limit as follows:

Reduce the annual bag limit of Kenai River King Salmon greater than 34 inches to ONE per year whenever their retention is permitted.

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

...

(b) Notwithstanding an annual limit established in this section for

(1) king salmon, the annual limit for king salmon in the combined waters of the Kenai River Drainage Area and the other areas in the Cook Inlet region that are open to sport fishing for king salmon under 5 AAC 56 - 5 AAC 62 is five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, not more than two of which may be taken from that portion of the Kenai River drainage open to king salmon fishing **of which only one fish may be greater than 34 inches**, and not more than two of which may be taken, in combination, from Deep Creek and the Anchor River, except that from

January 1 through June 30, a king salmon less than 28 inches in length taken from the Kenai River does not count towards the annual limit;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kenai River is experiencing a prolonged period of diminished productivity and is a candidate for Stock of Management Concern. This proposal seeks to reduce the exploitation of LARGE Kenai River King Salmon which are essential for stock recovery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Francis Estalilla (HQ-F23-095)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 148**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Prohibit fishing for king salmon from a motorized vessel in the Kenai River as follows:

Close the Kenai River to chinook fishing from a power boat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is an open-ended limit to the amount of pressure that the commercial guided fleet can apply to the late run of Kenai River chinook salmon. The efficiency that guides are able to maneuver in the slot allows extremely targeted and productive results. Further the ability to move up the river with a school of chinook salmon further compounds their harvest power.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Norman (EF-F23-132)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 149**

**5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Require mandatory retention of Kenai River king salmon as follows:

NO Hook and release on Kenai River king salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Hook and release – the damage is done, no Kenai kings.

**PROPOSED BY:** John McCombs (HQ-F23-063)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 150**

**5 AAC 21.XXX. New Section.**

Create a Kasilof River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Establish a dedicated management plan for Kasilof Late-run kings

**5 AAC 21.XXX Kasilof Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

- (a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kasilof River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kasilof River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. The provisions of this management plan are in effect from July 1 through August 15.**
- (b) In the absence of an established escapement goal, the department shall manage the late run of Kasilof River king salmon in a precautionary manner.**
- (c) Regulations governing the sport fishery for late-run king salmon in the Kasilof River shall mirror those established by emergency order for the Kenai River as set out in 5 AAC 21.359 Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan and implemented by emergency order for the conservation of Late-Run Kenai king salmon.**
- (c) Conservation of Kasilof River king salmon shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River sockeye optimal escapement goal.**
- (d) The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area shall not be opened to commercial fishing by set or drift gillnet when the Kasilof sport fishery prohibits fishing for king salmon.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A significant Kasilof late-run king salmon population has been identified by recent stock assessments. This population historically supported a significant sport fishery but, like king salmon throughout Alaska, appears to be in severe decline. Significant harvest of Kasilof late-run kings also occurs in the east side set gillnet fishery according to genetic stock identification.

No management plan is dedicated to this stock and it is unclear whether current management incidental to other salmon management plans provides adequate protection.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F23-083)

\*\*\*\*\*