

Kodiak Archipelago Sport Fishing (8 proposals)

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

Prohibit multiple hooks in Kodiak Island fresh waters as follows:

In all freshwaters of Kodiak Island only a single hook may be used for sportfishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fish mortality in Kodiak Island freshwaters and catch and release is the issue I would like to address. Most of Kodiak Island is remote. Catch and release is a major way of fishing. I want to see a ban on treble hook use in all freshwaters of Kodiak Island because it is hard on fish and promotes higher mortality. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been stagnant on this issue for ever. I want that changed for the sake of all salmon and trout populations on Kodiak Island. All lure companies now offer a single hook option for their lures. Flies are single hook anyway. It should be a universal theme in the name of conservation and ethical sportfishing.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (EF-F23-027)

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.

Prohibit bait and multiple hooks in Kodiak Island fresh waters as follows:

In all fresh waters of Kodiak Island only single hook artificial flies or lures may be used for sportfishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bait use in freshwaters of Kodiak Island sportfishing is what I would like to address. The only major use of bait is for Coho in the fall. Lots of Dolly Varden and Rainbow Trout and Steelhead are caught with bait too. There is a high mortality on target and non target species. Because Coho are very aggressive, bait is not needed. It is not conducive to catch and release either because the fish will take bait so deep they bleed out and die.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (EF-F23-028)

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 64.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

Allow snagging as a legal method for sockeye salmon in Kodiak Island freshwaters as follows:

Sockeye salmon may be legally harvested while hooked anywhere in the body in Kodiak Island freshwaters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Snagged or foul hooked Sockeye and mortality rates is what I would like to address. There is a huge problem here. Sockeye don't bite very well, so they are flossed, lined in the corner of the jaw with any fly or bare hook

and lead weight. It takes real skill to line fish legally fair hooked in the mouth. Most folks are terrible at it. They snag fish everywhere in the body except the mouth. I have seen a person snag 20 sockeye to get 2 legal ones. The snagged ones are grossly abused, snagged in the belly ALOT, YARDED IN AND ROLLED AND STOMPED AROUND AND KICKED BACK INTO THE WATER. Many don't make it to spawn with a gut wound from a hook. It is a major negative balance of molesting fish to try and legally harvest a bag limit. I firmly believe less fish would die and more would spawn and people would also harvest more all at the same time, if a sockeye could be legally harvested hooked anywhere in the body. People would catch their limit, get in and get out. Everyone wins.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-029)

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area and 5 AAC 64.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Kodiak Area.

Repeal areas closed to snagging and sport fishing in the Kodiak Area as follows:

5 AAC 64.022(b)(6)(C) is repealed:

[(C) MONASHKA BAY: ALL WATERS WEST OF A LINE FROM TERMINATION POINT TO MILLER POINT FROM MAY 1 – JULY 5] **Repealed;**

5 AAC 64.051(2) is repealed:

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, THE EAST BANK OF MONASHKA CREEK BETWEEN THE MONASHKA HIGHWAY BRIDGE AND ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS DOWNSTREAM] **Repealed;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Monashka Creek drainage was previously used as a brood source for the Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) king salmon stocking project. Regulations pertaining to snagging and closed waters in the creek were originally implemented to protect king salmon returning to Monashka Bay and Monashka Creek for use in broodstock collection while still allowing some opportunity for harvest of king salmon in the creek. However, due to poor returns in Monashka Creek, alternate brood sources and stocking locations have been utilized since 2016. In addition, Monashka Creek has more recently been stocked with coho salmon and has become one of the most popular sport fishing locations in the KRZ due to ease of access and relatively large returns. In 2020, regulations were revised to reduce closed waters in Monashka Creek to accommodate crowding issues and allow for greater access to coho salmon in the creek and further simplifying Monashka Bay and Creek sport fishing regulations will similarly benefit anglers. Current regulations protecting king salmon in Monashka Bay and Monashka Creek are no longer relevant since alternate brood sources are now utilized and the bank closure is not relevant to the primary fishery in the drainage targeting coho salmon. This proposal will simplify existing regulations for Monashka Bay, clarify regulations for Monashka Creek, and allow for greater access to coho salmon.

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Modify the bag and possession limit for coho salmon in the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery drainages as follows:

5 AAC 64.022(b) is amended to read:

...

(b)(8) in the Kodiak Road Zone, from September 16 – December 31, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, is one fish, except that in the following [STOCKED] waters the bag and possession limit for coho salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, is two fish:

- (A) Monashka Creek and Pillar Creek;
- (B) Mission Beach: all waters between ADF&G regulatory markers at Shahafka Cove;
- (C) Mill Bay: all waters between ADF&G regulatory markers;
- (D) Monashka Bay: all waters west of a line from Termination Point to Miller Point;
- (E) Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery drainages.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) coho salmon runs were established in 1996. Regulations were revised in 2017 to conserve coho salmon while maintaining sport fishing opportunity, since many of these drainages have small runs and relatively high angler effort. Thirteen of the major KRZ drainages with coho salmon populations are easily accessible by highway vehicle. Three more drainages, Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery, require backcountry travel and are accessed primarily via all-terrain vehicle. Additional trip planning and preparation is necessary to access the Sacramento River because beach travel is only achievable with low tides. Due to the remoteness of the Miam, Sacramento, and Saltery drainages, sport fishing effort directed at coho salmon is low. Angler harvest is generally concentrated at the major road accessible drainages, particularly once the bag limit is reduced to one fish after September 15. Removing the seasonal bag limit change within these drainages will increase coho salmon angling opportunities for the duration of the sport fishery. Due to access limitations and abundant coho salmon sport fishing opportunity in other, less remote KRZ drainages, this proposal will not create significant conservation concerns.

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 64.060. Kodiak Area Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the Kodiak Area Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan as follows:

Status quo regulation:

- (4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish, with no size limit;
- (5) the annual limit and harvest record specified in 5 AAC 64.022 does not apply.

Proposed Change:

(4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish, with no size limit **except for May 15-July 31 when bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish, with no size limit;**

(5) **For summer fisheries (April 1-August 31):**

20 inches or longer: There is a combined annual catch limit of 5 King salmon 20 inches or longer. A king salmon of 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit for of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a King salmon of 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak salt water king salmon FMP currently has daily-bag (2) and annual limits (NA) in the unguided and guided-recreational sector that are not in alignment with the Lower Cook Inlet’s King salmon FMP. Further the Kodiak salt water king salmon GHl was exceeded in 2021 under status quo regulations. The daily-bag and annual limits should be adjusted to keep the fishery within its GHl.

Lower Cook Inlet unguided and guided-recreational fisheries both have restricted limits for the 2023 season based on low expected returns of king salmon in the Upper Cook Inlet. East-side Cook Inlet set net fisheries are set to be closed for the 2023 season based on expected low king salmon returns. The burden of conservation for Upper Cook Inlet king salmon should be equitable in unguided and guided-recreational fisheries which have similar genetic mixing to protect the stock and to return it to a state where all effected fisheries may maintain access and viability.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Charter Association (EF-F23-129)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 64.070. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan and 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

Modify provisions of the management plan for rockfish in the Kodiak Area as follows:

5 AAC 64.070 is amended to read:

...

(a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries’ goal of stabilizing the sport harvest of black rockfish in the waters of the Kodiak Area particularly in the areas of Chiniak and Marmot bays. Black rockfish will be managed for harvest levels within the established guideline harvest range until a time when survey abundance estimates suggest an increase in harvest is appropriate. **Management will also attempt to prevent unintentional overharvest of other rockfish species.** In recognition that commercial and sport users harvest the

same populations of black rockfish, a management plan is also in place for commercial fisheries to maintain harvest within the guideline harvest range specified in 5 AAC 28.466(h).

(b) In the Kodiak Area rockfish sport fishery:

(1) the guideline harvest range is 0 – 26,000 black rockfish;

(2) the sport harvest will be estimated annually by the department using saltwater guide logbooks, statewide harvest survey data, and dockside sampling data;

[(3) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ROCKFISH IS FIVE FISH, ONLY TWO OF WHICH MAY BE NONPELAGIC AND ONLY ONE OF WHICH MAY BE A YELLOWEYE, EXCEPT THAT, IN THE WATERS OF CHINIAK BAY AND MARMOT BAY, WEST OF A LINE FROM CAPE CHINIAK AT 57° 37.10' N. LAT., 152° 09.28' W. LONG., TO PILLAR CAPE AT 58° 08.91' N. LAT., 152° 06.78' W. LONG., AND EAST OF A LINE FROM HEAD POINT ON AFOGNAK ISLAND AT 57° 59.67' N. LAT., 152° 46.75' W. LONG., TO DOLPHIN POINT AT 57° 59.15' N. LAT., 152° 43.40' W. LONG., ON WHALE ISLAND AND FROM BIRD POINT AT 57° 55.30' N. LAT., 152° 47.50' W. LONG., ON WHALE ISLAND TO INNER POINT ON KODIAK ISLAND AT 57° 54.05' N. LAT., 152° 47.75' W. LONG.,

(A) THE BAG LIMIT FOR ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH PER DAY AND SIX IN POSSESSION, OF WHICH ONLY TWO FISH PER DAY AND FOUR IN POSSESSION MAY BE NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH, AND ONLY ONE FISH PER DAY AND TWO IN POSSESSION MAY BE YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH; NO SIZE LIMIT;

(B) CHARTER VESSEL OPERATORS AND CREWMEMBERS MAY NOT RETAIN ROCKFISH WHILE CLIENTS ARE ON BOARD THE VESSEL.]

(c) If the harvest increases and it is anticipated that the upper bound of the guideline harvest range will be exceeded or has been exceeded, the commissioner may implement restrictions that may be necessary to restrict the increase of harvest in the sport fishery. When the commissioner finds that restrictions are necessary, the commissioner shall adopt one or more of the following restrictions:

(1) implement an annual limit for nonresidents for rockfish;

(2) reduce nonresident bag and possession limit for rockfish;

(3) reduce the rockfish bag limit by area as specified by the department;

(4) implement a rockfish season;

(5) reduce the resident bag and possession limit for rockfish.

5 AAC 64.022(b) is amended to read:

(11) in the waters of Chiniak Bay and Marmot Bay, west of a line from Cape Chiniak at 57° 37.10' N. lat., 152° 9.28' W. long., to Pillar Cape at 58° 8.91' N. lat., 152° 6.78' W. long., and east of a line from Head Point on Afognak Island at 57° 59.67' N. lat., 152° 46.75' W. long., to Dolphin Point at 57° 59.15' N. lat., 152° 43.40' W. long., on Whale Island and from Bird Point at 57° 55.30' N. lat., 152° 47.50' W. long., on Whale Island to Inner Point at 57° 54.05' N. lat., 152° 47.75' W. long., on Kodiak Island

(A) the bag limit for rockfish is three fish per day and six in possession, of which only two fish per day and four in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish, and only one fish per day and two in possession may be yelloweye rockfish; no size limit;

(B) charter vessel operators and crewmembers may not retain rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan was adopted at the 2020 Kodiak Area board meeting. This proposal would add or modify some of the text and the provisions of the management plan to accommodate new information available since its adoption in 2020. This proposal would also correct an inconsistency in the text of the management plan discovered since it was adopted. The bag and possession limits for rockfish listed were incorrectly as equal for the Kodiak Area when in fact the possession limit is double the bag limit. This is in conflict with areawide rockfish bag limits previously established but is also unnecessarily duplicated in the management plan and should be removed. Modification of the stated purpose of the management plan would reflect new information available since the adoption of the plan in 2020. The department has issued EOs restricting nonresident harvest of rockfish on the eastside of Kodiak and Afognak islands to attempt to curb growth in the sport harvest in particular areas of concern to keep the sport harvest within the guideline harvest range as well as at sustainable levels. Additionally, a method was developed of tracking harvest of rockfish inseason to allow for timely estimation of harvest in both guided and unguided fisheries as well as by rockfish species and species assemblage since formal estimates often take a year or more to finalize after the fishery has occurred. This proposal would add language to recognize the potential to affect other rockfish species through management actions directed at black rockfish taken in accordance with this plan. Recognition that other species may be impacted by management actions directed at black rockfish would allow the department more flexibility to curb additional growth in the sport fishery for black rockfish while still maintaining angler opportunity for other rockfish species and preventing incidental overharvest of these populations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-015)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 64.XXX. New Section.

Prohibit commercial transporters from sport or subsistence shellfish fishing while transporting clients as follows:

No commercial transport vessel may conduct saltwater sportfishing or subsistence crab fishing while in the act of transporting nature viewers or hunters on Kodiak Island or its near shore waters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abuse of saltwater sportfishing and subsistence fishing with no mandatory logbook reporting while conducting other commercial transporting activities on Kodiak Island is what I would like to address. There are many transport vessels on Kodiak Island conducting commercial activities not directly related to sportfishing like wildlife viewing and hunting. These boats ransack our rockfish, lingcod, halibut and tanner crab, king crab and Dungeness crab, and king salmon stocks in near shore waters of Kodiak Island. There is no logbook requirement, NOTHING. WE CANNOT EVEN FIND CRAB OR ROCKFISH AND OTHERS species for local sport and subsistence use any place because these boats take so much, unreported too. Especially in the Olga Bay, Uyak and Uganik Bay areas, especially in the fall. It is a huge problem I want solved.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve

(EF-F23-026)
