

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the structure of the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* by removing management tiers and other provisions, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

- (a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.
- (b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to:

- (1) manage the sport fishery to attain a [AN average] harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

- (2) allow [UNINTERRUPTED] sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

- (3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

- (4) [ALLOW FOR THE TRANSFER OF ANY PROJECTED UNUSED BALANCE IN SPORT ALLOCATION TO THE TROLL FISHERY AT A DATE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.]

- (c) **The department shall manage the sport fishery to the annual sport harvest ceiling as follows:** [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS ABOVE 67,505 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

- (1) **the department shall manage the sport fishery;** [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

- (2) **to take 70 percent of the sport fishery allocation between January 1 and July 1;** [A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

- (3) **to take the remaining 30 percent of the sport fishery allocation between July 1 and December 31;** [FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

- (4) **resident bag limit of 2 king Salmon, 28 inches or greater.** [FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING

SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(d) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 55,261 AND 67,505 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(e) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 43,644 AND 55,260 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES

OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(f) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 32,191 AND 43,643 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH

ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(6) FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, A RESIDENT SPORT FISH ANGLER MAY USE TWO RODS WHEN FISHING FOR KING SALMON; A PERSON USING TWO RODS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY ONLY RETAIN SALMON.

(g) WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 22,388 AND 32,190 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(1) A BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 7, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(4) [FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

(h) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 19,752 AND 22,388 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

(1) [A BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(2) [FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(3) [FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER

IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(4) [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN AREAS WHERE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAVE PROHIBITED KING SALMON RETENTION OR CLOSED FISHING FOR KING SALMON FOR ALL ANGLERS ONCE THEY REOPEN.]

(i) [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS LESS THAN 19,752 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN (G) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.]

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(n) [The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Action on the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan is necessary since the existing regulation expire March 31 2025.

King salmon are a finite resource and it is crucial that the department have all tools available to manage each sector according to its allocation. One sector should be allowed to flourish to the detriment of another. The King Salmon Management Plan agree to by stakeholders SEAGO, Territorial Sportsmen, and ATA at the 2022 Southeast Alaska Board of fish meeting (2022 meeting) in Anchorage, and then amended at the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of fish sunsets in 2025. The agreement between stakeholders at the 2022 meeting did not work for two of the three parties. I was an original signatory at the 2022 meeting and attended the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting as well. This proposal aims to give the Department all tools for managing king salmon to the rigid requirements of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, prioritize resident anglers, and keep all gear groups within their allocation.

Since the original agreement, the structure for determining the all-gear treaty harvest limit has changed to the detriment of Alaska's share of treaty king salmon. It is highly unlikely that Alaska will be in moderate-high to high tier in the near future, making it very important that all king salmon harvesters and users have a reliable percentage. This proposal decouples Alaska King

salmon management from the tier structure, models, and other moving targets of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, which reduces workload for both the Board of Fish and The Department.

This proposal prioritizes resident bag limits since the sport fishery is a quasi subsistence fishery in southeast Alaska. This resident sport harvesters faces increasing pressure from a heavily-capitalized guide sector. Food security is a critical issues for rural communities in Alaska in general and rural southeast Alaska specifically. Increasing food and fuel costs make local resources, such as king salmon, necessary for the economic stability of southeast Alaska residents.

From multiple conversations with the guide sector I learned that access to kings salmon prior to July 1 is important to their operation. It seeks to balance this desire with the needs of communities on inside waters who have only been allowed to harvest king salmon later in the summer, and have been restricted based on higher catch rates on the outer coast. This proposal gives The Department all tools necessary to manage the sport fishery to its allocation in they way that best suits the needs of the sport fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. While I developed this proposal on my own is it heavily influenced by my conventions at Board of Fish meetings with members of SEAGO and Territorial Sportsmen; resident sport fishermen in Sitka, rural subsistence users, and commercial trollers. I plan on taking this proposal to the Sitka AC prior to the 2025 southeast Alaska Board of Fish meeting in Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Jacqueline Foss

(HQ-F24-038)
