

**PROPOSAL 119**

**5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.**

Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week, as follows:

**The nonresident king salmon sport fishery, both guided and non-guided, will close two days a week, which these days shall not coincide with Pacific Halibut closures for nonresidents, except within terminal harvest areas.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** King Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) (also known as sgaawahl in Haida, t'a in Tlingit, and yeeh in Tsimshian) is an important resource to many people within southeast Alaska. As a tribal government, we take responsibility in pursuing equitable access to all cultural food resources that our tribal citizens need access to sustain their lives and their culture. Natural king salmon stocks all across the Pacific northwest are not what they used to be, and supplemental production of kings is something that we are hesitant to rely on. The State of Alaska has an obligation to take care of those who call Alaska home, first. Now that the State of Alaska has recognized federally recognized tribes, it also has an obligation to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples around the state.

Without negatively impacting other local Alaskan people, the tribe finds it necessary to restrict access to nonresident sport harvesters first. To take stress off of the wild run king salmon in southeast Alaska, we propose that king salmon harvested be restricted by time to allow for salmon to better escape back to their natal streams. This is done for the nonresident sport fishery for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and has shown to have positive impacts for the residents of southeast Alaska. The idea here is to have two days a week throughout the week be non-retention days for king salmon.

In order to alleviate concerns that the charter fleet may have, we would propose that the non-retention days do not overlap with that of Pacific halibut. This will allow ample opportunity for nonresidents to sport fish for different things if they plan on fishing on consecutive days. There are plenty of species to fish for throughout the year. While some may consider kings to be highly sought out after, we firmly believe that we need to be able to conserve for local Alaskans during times of reduced abundance.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** This proposal was developed by the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Government, with much of the work done by the Our Way of Life Committee with deals with issues pertaining natural resources in Alaska that impact our tribal citizens and the ecosystem as a whole.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ketchikan Indian Community

(HQ-F24-095)

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