

PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means, for fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reduce king salmon sport fish bag limits outside of the time when the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Management Plan is in effect, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 47.023

(h) (1) (C) king salmon may be taken from January 1- **May 31** [December 31]; bag and possession limits, as follows:

- (i) [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,] bag and possession limit of two fish
- (ii) [LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH;]

(D) a king salmon [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH] harvested by a nonresident counts toward the annual harvest limit established under 5AAC 47.055

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ability to take 4 king salmon in the Blind Slough area after July 31st each year has contributed to Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture (SSRAA) not obtaining the necessary broodstock for all its programs in 10 of the last 20 years. Additionally, having a bag limit of (2) fish over 28 inches and (2) under 28 inches creates a catch and release scenario which is detrimental to egg viability and survival of especially female salmon. Recent returns to the hatchery have been disproportionately males.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. SSRAA worked with the Petersburg Advisory Committee to amend 5AAC 33.381. District 6: Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. It was during their meeting to adopt a proposal for submission that we were advised of this special provisions regulation that would revert into effect as soon as the THA management plan ended. The Petersburg AC had not advertised for this to be on the agenda, and as a result, they had to amend the desired closure dates we had agreed upon as the only course of action they could take by the proposal deadline

PROPOSED BY: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA)(HQ-F24-121)
