

PROPOSAL 185

5 AAC 06.XXX. New Section

Adopt a Naknek River King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the declining king run on the Naknek River. Over the last eight years that I have sat on the Naknek – Kvichak Advisory Committee community members from all user groups have acknowledged and expressed grave concerns about our king run. Each cycle we construct proposals in attempt to manage this decline but without the most critical piece of information necessary – data. 2008 was the last year that ADF&G gathered king escapement data via arial survey. How can we manage something that we cannot measure? The lack of data has created a spin cycle of nonaction, while kings continue to decline. We need a King Salmon Management Plan on the Naknek river, that puts data as a top priority, so that we can therefore measure and appropriately manage the fishery for all user groups. Understandably, there are many factors that cause the decline of the king run, many beyond our control. There are however some within our control. There are still kings that despite these factors return to the bay each year - during the 2024 commercial fishing season we saw this firsthand. When commercial fishing paused to allow sockeye escapement, the Naknek experienced a significant push of King Salmon into the river. These fish are within our ability to protect. A Naknek River King Salmon management plan would help protect these returning fish by prioritizing a data drive management strategy. This will ensure not only the health of the king run but the health of the fishery for all user groups.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, we have discussed this idea with other sportfishing operators and it has been well received.

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