

## Late-Run Kenai River King Salmon Management Plan

The amount of time the commercial east side set net (ESSN) fishery can fish during the 2014 season is more than the combined hours fished in the Kenai section for both 2012 and 2013. As adopted in amended proposal #209 (RC 151), the new plan provides the ESSN fishery with the opportunity for **MORE TIME** than ADFG managers utilized in either 2012 or 2013.

Late-run Kenai River king salmon are at historic low numbers and there is need for conservative management to assure escapement. The new plan pairs restrictions between the sport and commercial set net fisheries to conserve kings.

In 2012 and 2013, ADFG managers provided for the following hours of ESSN fishing in the Kasilof and Kenai sub districts and the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA), compared to the new plan.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>NEW PLAN</u>
<i>Kenai</i>	60 hours	78 hours	144 hours
<i>Kasilof</i>	85 hours	140 hours	180 hours
<i>KRSHA</i>	Did not use	210 hour	No limit

In 2012 and 2013, the department managed the ESSN in a conservative manner with restricted hours and closure, which were paired with sport restrictions and closure. These paired conservation measures were taken outside a prescriptive management plan.

The 2014 forecast for returning late-run Kenai River king salmon is less than 20,000. Any reference to lost or severely reduced fishing time by the ESSN in the new plan in relationship to the king conservation management actions the department took in 2012 and 2013 is not accurate.

When king conservation measures are not required for all users groups, the amount of time in the late run Kenai River sockeye and Kasilof River sockeye management plans for the ESSN are still in effect and have not changed.

*Submitted by Kenai River Sportfishing Association*