

Proposal 238

Additional Drift-Boat Day Guided & Unguided

Committee E Public Testimony – Dwight Kramer (KAFC)

Synopsis

Additional Drift Boat Day Will: Meet Conservation needs, Habitat protections and user satisfaction.

Conservation Needs:

Will help reduce King salmon harvest because of less efficiency; 2009-2010 ADF&G, "The creel estimates of harvest for late-run Mondays were approximately 4.2% of the total late run harvests in both 2009 and 2010."

Habitat Protections:

- Will help reduce boat wake erosion
- Will reduce turbidity impacts on juvenile salmon (See RC 206)

"Executing the powerboat fishery in the present day manner is a violation of: 5AAC 39.322 Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries."

- Reduce hydrocarbons
- Reduce noise

User Satisfaction:

- Will reduce crowding
- Will spread out the harvest because people won't be able to return to favored hole after landing a fish
- Will reduce user conflict between guided and unguided users

Guide Appeal: We have tried to craft this proposal to appeal to the guide industry so that they will not see it as a hindrance but as an opportunity.

- Removed guide hour limitations to reduce boat ramp congestion and allow for multiple trips
- Nitch market where they could charge more for the quality of experience
- 2010 Recreational study indicates 94% of drift guides and 65% of powerboat guides would use this drift day option (See RC 216)

Complaints Against Additional Drift-Boat Day:

- **Inadequate boat launches and bathroom facilities (See Maps in RC 215)** We believe current infrastructures are currently working well on drift-boat Mondays. **Please ask ADF&G what complaints they have received over the years.**
- **Anchor dragging:** Current regulation prohibit continued fishing if an anchor starts to drag. Fishing may not resume until the anchor is reset in a fixed position.

Future Improvement Projects;

- Eagle Rock Boat Launch – Just Purchased by the state – renovation to start in 2015 with improved boat ramp and increased parking areas.
- Bing's Boat Launch – Renovations to start in the fall of 2014 with larger ramp area and increased parking.
- Kenai Landing – Ready for 2014 season with new boat ramp and increased parking.
- City of Kenai – A lower river drift-boat take out is in their top 3 legislative priorities.

Conclusion: Only 4 of our 14 member BOD owns a drift-boat so our commitment to this fishery method is strictly based on our concerns for current and future conservation issues and increased human impacts on the river.