

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 57.160. Kenai River and Kasilof River Early-run King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.

Allow the use of bait in the Kenai River king salmon sport fishery when the fishery is restricted to catch and release, as follows:

Allow the ADF&G at their discretion to allow the use of bait during catch & release on the Kenai River early & late runs of King Salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create an additional step down/step up management tool for both the Kenai River early, & late king salmon run at the department's discretion to issue an EO allowing the use of bait when the king fishery is restricted to catch & release. At times the Kenai king fishery is on the bubble of having enough fish to allow harvest without bait, & catch & release without bait, when the fishery is in this in between scenario, then the department could issue an EO allowing Bait during catch & release giving additional opportunity to catch fish without harvest. Mortality rates are extremely low with bait, & the only additional mortality comes from increased catch rates.

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