

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Allow sport fishing from a vessel with a motor on board but not in use on the Kenai River on Mondays in July, as follows:

(a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kenai River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kenai River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency or inriver restrictions.

(c) In the sport fishery,

(3) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a [NONMOTORIZED VESSEL ON MONDAYS IN JULY; FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A NONMOTORIZED VESSEL IS ONE THAT DOES NOT HAVE A MOTOR ON BOARD.] (REMOVE)

I'm requesting the following changes:

(3) that portion of the Kenai River downstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake is open to unguided sport fishing from a **vessel with a motor on board on Mondays in July. However, the use of a motor may not be used while sport fishing. A person may no longer fish from that specific vessel for the day once the motor has been started.** (ADD)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kenai River Management Plan limits sportfishing from nonmotorized vessels on Mondays (Drift Only Mondays) during the king salmon run on the Kenai River downstream from the outlet of Skilak Lake. A non-motorized vessel is described as a vessel that does not have a motor on board.

It should be noted that the regulation allows the use of motorized vessels on Mondays. According to the ADF&G sportfishing regulation booklet it states, "Motors may be used to transport anglers to shore fishing locations, but anglers may not fish from any vessel that has a motor on board." The dates are set forth every Monday from May 1 to July 31.

There are many vessels that are designed to alternate between motorized and manual power, such as rowing. Vessels that have motors onboard can be removed from the water by tilting them on the transom and not be used while sportfishing allowing the operator to manually control the vessel by rowing.

This regulation has no environmental or biological impact on the Kenai River. It was adapted as a courtesy to sport fisherman allowing them to fish without the crowds of guided vessels on the river.

As a private sport fishing angler this code is restricting my right to fish from my vessel with a motor greater than 10 horsepower on board while manually rowing my boat.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Christian

(EF-F19-092)
