

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

Establish an annual limit for the Kenai River sockeye salmon sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 21.360(h) would be amended to add a new subsection (4) as follows:

(4) from July 1 – December 31, an annual limit of no more than 21 sockeye salmon may be retained in the entire Kenai River drainage sport fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? According to 5 AAC 21.360(a), the department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance.

In recent years, because of poor king salmon runs to the Kenai River, many king salmon sport fishers and guides have concentrated their efforts on harvesting sockeye salmon. When Kenai River sockeye salmon runs are estimated to exceed 2.3 million fish, the department has the option of increasing the daily bag and possession limit as the commissioner determines to be appropriate. Often times, this means the bag and possession limits are increased to 6 sockeye salmon per day or 12 in possession. If a sport fisherman were to successfully fish the Kenai River for a week straight, this means they could harvest as many as 84 fish. For residents, this is in addition to liberal personal use limits of 25 fish per head of household plus 10 additional fish for each dependent.

This proposal seeks to put an annual limit on the number of sockeye salmon that can be harvested in the Kenai River sport fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Every

(HQ-F19-021)
