

Copper River Salmon Management/Policy

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 24.361. Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

Establish an optimal escapement goal for Copper River king salmon, as follows:

Adopt an optimum escapement goal for Copper River King Salmon:

Sustainable Escapement Goal, current	24,000 lower bound
Sustainable Escapement Goal, ADF&G revision	21,000-31,000
<u>Optimum Escapement Goal, proposed</u>	<u>24,000-40,000</u>

The proposed OEG can be expected to provide high levels of both yield and recruitment. ADFG Memorandum of March 16, 2020 reported that the optimum yield profiles suggest yields diminish as you approach 40,000 spawners, which justifies an upper boundary for an escapement goal.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A precautionary escapement goal is necessary for Copper River King Salmon because the aggregate goal is unlikely to provide adequate protection for the dozens of populations that occur in this very large and diverse basin. The aggregated goal may not provide adequate protections to maximize yield or recruitment of different populations with different run timings and varying levels of productivity. This problem is reflected in a very high degree of variability in the historical stock-recruitment data for the aggregate stock where escapements between 21,000 and 31,000 can produce run sizes of anywhere from 30,000 and 110,000.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

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