

**PROPOSAL 29**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Restrict the Togiak River king salmon sport fishery until a minimum king salmon commercial harvest is achieved, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 67.022 (L)

(l) In the Togiak River Drainage, until the annual commercial catch in the Togiak River section has harvested 2000 king salmon, the following special provisions apply:

- 1. only barbless, unbaited, single-hook artificial lures or flies may be used; and
- 2. the bag and possession limit for king salmon less than 20 inches in length (jack salmon) is five fish and;
- 3. any king salmon caught that are 20 inches or greater in length must be immediately released.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The number of king salmon returning to the Togiak River is at an all-time low. This is reflected in the commercial, sport, and subsistence harvest assessments. Attempts to monitor king salmon escapement have been unsuccessful to date. There is not an escapement monitoring program in place, nor is there a management plan specific to King Salmon in the Togiak River drainage.

Without the ability for managers to monitor escapement of king salmon on the Togiak River, and continual reports of low abundance, additional conservation actions are needed.

The escapement goal of king salmon on the Togiak River was recommended to be discontinued by the ADF&G and was repealed by the BOF in 2012. (Fair et al, 2012)

The oldest continuous documentation on the presence and abundance of king salmon is in the form of traditional knowledge held by subsistence users, which has indicated that the abundance has been relatively low, and returning smaller in recent history. (Jones et al 2019)

Another long-running collection of abundance information are the incidental catch of king salmon in the Togiak River Section of the Togiak District of Bristol Bay's commercial fishery. These catch numbers indicate that the returns of king salmon to the Togiak River are the lowest on record. (Tiernan et al., 2021) (Sands et al., 2021)

In addition to not having the ability to monitor the population, reportedly in decline, there is no daily or annual limit to the number of anglers fishing for king salmon on the Togiak River. Therefore, there is no total annual harvest limit, leaving the king salmon population susceptible to over exploitation..

**PROPOSED BY:** Jimmy Coopchiak

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