

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 06.377. Reporting requirements and 5 AAC 67.XXX new section.

Require reporting of king salmon harvest in guided sport fisheries and commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay, as follows:

Require all sport fishing operations to turn in a seasonal tally of King salmon retained. This number is to be inclusive of clients, guides, staff, or any person that utilized the services of the operation. This tally sheet will be filled out daily and a running total logged with a final cumulative total at the end of the operator’s season. There will also be a size category as well for a total of fish over 28’ and those under 28”.

All commercial drift permit holders must turn in a King salmon tally log that keeps tract of total king salmon retained by any person while under the command of the captain. This includes employees, contract workers, deck hands, mechanics, guests, or any person that retains a King salmon because of the gill net being implemented in the commercial fishery targeting sockeye salmon. This tally sheet will be filled out daily and a running total logged with a final cumulative total at the end of the operator’s season. This does not pertain to any King salmon directive commercial openers.

All commercial set net permit holders must turn in a King salmon tally log that keeps tract of total king salmon retained by any person that was caught through use of implementation of a set net during a commercial sockeye opening. This includes employees, contract workers, general laborers, mechanics, guests, or any person that retains a King salmon because of the implementation of a set net being used in the commercial fishery targeting sockeye salmon. This tally sheet will be filled out daily and a running total logged with a final cumulative total at the end of the operator’s season. This does not pertain to any King salmon directive commercial openers.

Penalties for non-compliance or falsification of data are up to the department however we recommend that they are severe as to deter under-reporting on non-reporting. A fine along with suspension from the fishery (Guides/camps loose ability to have clients for a year, com captain permit suspended for a year, set net permit suspended for a year).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The King salmon runs of Bristol Bay have faced some very tough times over the last few years. We are seeing less and less Kings returning to the system and the size composition is declining. We need to get a better handle on the amount of King salmon that are being retained. The sport fishing industry no longer has the log-books that were required to be on hand and filled out before getting onshore. The commercial fishery intercepts kings in their effort to catch sockeye and many of those fish go into "home packs" and do not get reported. This self-reporting will help the department get a handle on king retention and allow for tools to help protect the king runs of the Bristol Bay rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Kraft

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