

## **PROPOSAL 116**

### **5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan**

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to two fish prior to July 1 and one fish after July 1, as follows:

Amend Language in 5 AAC 47.055

(c) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is equal to or greater than 20.5, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index greater than 2.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 69,000 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December**

[**(3)** FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

**(4)** FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

**(5)** FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

**(6)** from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

**(d)** When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 20.5 and equal to or greater than 8.7, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 2.2 and greater than 1.8, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 61,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a resident bag limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;**

[**(3)** FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

**(4)** FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING

SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(e) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 8.7 and equal to or greater than 6.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index less than or equal to 1.8 and greater than 1.5, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 49,300 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

**(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**

**(4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;**

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(f) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 6.0 and equal to or greater than 3.8, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.5 and greater than 1.2, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 37,900 treaty king salmon, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) a nonresident bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

**(3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**

**(4) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;**

[(3) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(4) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 15, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(5) FROM JULY 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 15 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(6) from October 1 through March 31, a resident sport fish angler may use two rods when fishing for king salmon; a person using two rods under this paragraph may only retain salmon.

(g) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.6, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.2 and greater than 1.0, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 25,800 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;**

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH JULY 7, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF TWO KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY THE NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARD THE TWO FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;

(4) FROM JULY 8 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(5) if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0, a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.6 and equal to or greater than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than or equal to 1.0 and greater than or equal to 0.875, the sport fishery harvest limit will be 20,600 treaty king salmon and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

- (1) a bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
- (2) a nonresident annual harvest limit of two king salmon from January 1 through June 30th;**
- (3) a nonresident annual harvest limit of one king salmon from July 1 through December 31;**

[(2) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(3) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ANY KING SALMON HARVESTED BY A NONRESIDENT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 WILL APPLY TOWARDS THE ONE FISH ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT;]

(4) if the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 3.8 and equal to or greater than 2.0, a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(i) When the Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery CPUE is less than 2.0, which is equivalent to a king salmon abundance index of less than 0.875, the all-gear catch limit will be determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the provisions specified in (g) and (h) of this section.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations that establish reporting requirements necessary to obtain the information required to implement the management plan under this section.

(k) The commissioner may, by emergency order, establish that the nonresident harvest and annual limits for king salmon under this section do not apply in a hatchery terminal harvest area.

(l) A harvest record under 5 AAC 75.006 is required for nonresidents.

(m) The department shall manage the resident sport fishery so that there are no closures for residents, unless the commissioner determines that additional harvest reduction to the resident bag limits is necessary to comply with the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(n) The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.

#### **5 AAC 47.057. Stikine River King Salmon Management Plan.**

(a) The objective of this management plan is to allow for an additional sport harvest opportunity on Stikine River king salmon when the projected preseason or inseason abundance level indicates the presence of an allowable catch for the Stikine River king salmon as determined under the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 , if an allowable catch is available, the commissioner will open, by emergency order, on May 1 or as soon as the available catch has been announced, a directed king salmon sport fishery in District 8 with the following provisions:

(1) sport fishing for king salmon may be conducted with the use of two rods per angler;

(2) a resident bag limit of three king salmon 28 inches or greater in length, and a possession limit of six king salmon;

(3) a nonresident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and a possession limit of two king salmon; an annual limit of six king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

(c) When no allowable catch exists for the Stikine River king salmon, the king salmon sport fishery in District 8 will be managed as specified in 5 AAC 47.055 .

(d) For the purposes of this section, District 8 is the salt waters of Frederick Sound south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point, excluding Wrangell Narrows, Sumner Strait east of a line from Point Alexander to Low Point, Stikine Strait north of the latitude of Round Point, Zimovia Strait north of the latitude of Nemo Point and Eastern Passage west of a line from Hour Point to Babler Point.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For most of the past 20+ years of king salmon fisheries management in Southeast Alaska, the annual sport limit for nonresidents prior to July 1 has been three king salmon. There have been some, but few, variations to that limit. During the same 20+ year period, the commercial troll and resident sport fisheries have been restricted by US-Canada Treaty reductions and by severe local stock of concern measures. Since residents and nonresidents share one sport quota, the biggest threat to the stable resident sport king salmon fishery is the unlimited unrestricted nonresident king salmon fishery.

More than 75 percent of the sport harvest was taken by nonresidents in 2023, and the fishery exceeded its quota by 17,000 fish. The non-resident fishing power in outside waters is now capable of catching the entire sport quota before the end of June. Residents in inside waters can't begin fishing until mid-June or even July because of stock of concern restrictions on local runs. A review of the allocation criteria argues for residents, as the troll and resident sport fisheries are long-standing and stable, while the non-resident sport fishery has no participation limit and, in 2023, no in-season management. The resident food fishery and the commercial troll fishery both have history, personal use for sustenance, and local economic importance on their side.

In 2023, the unmanaged nonresident sport fishery, primarily in outside waters, overharvested the sport quota by 17,000 fish. The constitutional resident priority for king salmon was violated. It is time that the nonresident sport fishery join in conservation and respect for an iconic Alaskan fish and a most valuable but declining coastwide resource.

King salmon today are far more valued than they were 20 or 30 years ago when abundance was varying within degrees of normalcy. The troll price of king salmon in 2003 was \$1.35 per pound, while in the past two or three years the winter troll caught chinook price sometimes exceeded \$10 per pound to the fisherman. For a resident to purchase fresh king salmon in January 2024 the market price in Juneau has exceeded \$23/lb. During the same past 20 years, the price per pound to fishermen of salmon species other than king salmon has not increased beyond normal inflation, if at all. It is clear that king salmon are highly treasured by residents of Alaska.

Charter boats today employ better technology (better communication, better fish finders, high resolution GPS mapping software) increasing the CPUE of all anglers aboard. Charter boats are generally larger and more seaworthy, decreasing the number of days that they are unable to fish. The charter season has gotten longer, in particular starting earlier in the season- when troll and inside waters sport opportunity has been severely limited due to concerns for local wild stocks. The resident sport fishery is stable. The commercial troll fishery is stable. The non-resident sport fishery can be made stable by an annual limit reduction to two king salmon.

This action is expected to result in a full normal season for all users. The value to the non-resident or guided sport sector is not expected to be diminished as the industry will likely realize the same income from two king salmon as they do now from three.

There are no guarantees in fishing, and since a three fish annual king salmon limit has been shown to be destructive to quota management, the reduction to two fish is fully warranted.

We propose a two fish annual sport king salmon limit for non-residents prior to July 1 and one fish limit thereafter.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Yes. Territorial Sportsmen and Alaska Trollers Association asked the Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee to submit this proposal. The AC voted in support of submitting the proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F24-166)

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