

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

The nonresident annual limit for king salmon shall not exceed three and nonresident annual limits will not apply in terminal harvest areas, as follows:

The annual harvest of king salmon in the Southeast & Yakutat finfish management area by nonresident sport fisherman shall be no more than three (3) fish. King Salmon caught within THA’s shall not count towards this annual limit.

Sunset Date: By end of the 2028 Southeast Finfish BOF meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King Salmon (also known as sgaawahl in Haida, t’a in Tlingit, and yeeh in Tsimshian) is an important resource to many people within southeast Alaska. As a tribal government, we take responsibility in pursuing equitable access to all cultural food resources that our tribal citizens need access to sustain their lives and their culture. Natural king salmon stocks all across the Pacific northwest are not what they used to be, and supplemental production of kings is something that we are hesitant to rely on. The State of Alaska has an obligation to take care of those who call Alaska home, first. Now that the State of Alaska has recognized federally recognized tribes, it also has an obligation to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples around the state.

Without negatively impacting other local Alaskan people, the tribe finds it necessary to restrict access to nonresident sport harvesters first. We understand the importance of the charter fisheries around the state of Alaska and the impact it has on local economies and families. However, resources are becoming more and more scarce for our people, and we must continue to be creative in ensuring our people have enough. While this will have some impact on the nonresident charter fleet, we do not feel it will have detrimental ramifications on that sector. King salmon is not the only species of fish in the ocean. There are four other species of salmon, various types of rockfish, halibut, cod, ling cod, etc. that people have opportunities to go harvest. To the average charter fisherperson, people do not care about the difference between catching a 7-pound coho vs an 18-pound king salmon. Based on what we have heard with bookings, the installation of a restrictive limit on nonresident sport harvest of king salmon has not impacted charter business scheduling

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Government, with much of the work done by the Our Way of Life Committee with deals with issues pertaining natural resources in Alaska that impact our tribal citizens and the ecosystem as a whole.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Indian Community

(HQ-F24-094)
