

KING SALMON (31 proposals)

King Salmon Management Plan and Allocation

PROPOSAL 104

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of King Salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and 5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications.

Allocate 5,000 king salmon for the Alaska's all gear quota to a king salmon subsistence fishery and establish provisions for king salmon subsistence fishery.

1. Modify 5 AAC 29.060 (King Salmon Management Plan) to add an "off-the-top" allocation of 5,000 fish or 5% of the total PSC harvest ceiling (whichever is greater), similar to those allocated to the net fisheries.
2. Establish a household subsistence permit for king salmon in marine waters in 5 AAC 01.745. The annual household limit may be set by the department to meet allocation goals. The daily limit of two king salmon in 5 AAC 01.730(j) shall not apply to a directed subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters. Harvest reporting requirements shall be implemented to allow the department to monitor the fishery.
3. Modify 5 AAC 01.720 to permit use of rod and reel in a subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters under a household permit.
4. Establish permit conditions that prohibit subsistence taking of king salmon in waters closed to sport retention of king salmon by resident anglers. This provision applies the conservation time and area closures used to protect Alaska stocks to the subsistence fishery. Subsistence king salmon fishing will be prohibited in non-subsistence areas. King salmon may not be taken under sport regulations and a subsistence permit on the same day.
5. Any unused harvest allocation shall be allocated to the troll fishery as in 5 AAC 29.060(b)(6).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the 2021-22 cycle, the Board approved a proposal (Proposal 125) to modify 5 AAC 01.730 to allow ADF&G to issue subsistence permits for king salmon. This proposal seeks to take the next step and outline the implementation of a subsistence king salmon fishery in marine waters.

In the staff comments on Proposal 125, ADF&G focused on potential subsistence fisheries on Alaska king salmon stocks, presumably as net fisheries in terminal areas, as is typical for subsistence fisheries. The continued low abundance of southeast Alaska king salmon stocks would severely limit the opportunity for such fisheries, at least in the foreseeable future. Currently, the vast majority of king salmon taken by residents for noncommercial household use are taken in marine waters under sport regulations. Much of that harvest would be characterized as subsistence taking using the "8 factors" listed in 5 AAC 99.010, used by the Board to establish customary and traditional subsistence use. For example, king salmon have long been relied upon as the only available source of fresh salmon when other species are not available, and are harvested as food rather than strictly for recreation. The harvested fish are shared in traditional networks like other subsistence resources. This proposal seeks to establish a regulatory framework that recognizes and provides for the continued subsistence use of king salmon in marine waters.

Under the proposed framework, a separate subsistence allocation would provide for the continuation of subsistence use if resident sport fisheries were closed due to inseason management actions to stay within the sport allocation. It would also allow for a more efficient annual household harvest, as sport bag limits may require several trips to harvest the same number of fish, with each trip involving significant amounts of fuel and time. Most importantly, it would establish a regulatory structure for the long-standing and ongoing subsistence use of king salmon that currently occurs within the sport fishery regulations, a system with different practices and needs than subsistence users. While it may appear to add a user group to an already tightly allocated resource, the subsistence user group has long been using the resource – this proposal simply provides the Board an opportunity to create an effective management structure for a user group that is currently unrepresented in the existing system.

The proposal applies the time and area restrictions used in the sport fishery to protect Alaska stocks, so that only areas open to sport fishing for king salmon will be open to subsistence harvest. Finally, it provides for unused allocation to be rolled over to the commercial troll fishery, so that treaty fish are not left on the table.

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 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council during their Winter 2024 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F24-016)

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 47.020 General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area, and 5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan..

Modify sport fishing regulations in salt waters subject to the Magnuson-Stevens Act by removing differential regulations for resident and nonresident anglers, as follows:

Regulations for federal fisheries must not vary between Alaska residents and nonresidents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon and groundfish fisheries in Alaska are federal fisheries. State regulation of these federal fisheries must comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Fishery Management Act. Federal law prohibits management measures that distinguish between state residents and non-residents. 16 U.S.C. § 1851 (a)(4) (“Conservation measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states.”)

Discrimination among residents of different states. An FMP may not differentiate among U.S. citizens, nationals, resident aliens, or corporations on the basis of their state of residence. An FMP may not incorporate or rely on a state statute or regulation that discriminates against residents of another state.

50 C.F.R. § 600.325(b).

Alaska’s Administrative Code expressly discriminates against non-residents.

- King salmon. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan makes express an objective to favorably treat resident anglers. 5 AAC 47.055(b) (“The objectives of the

management plan under this section are to . . . minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers.”)

- King salmon. The Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan contains numerous provisions constraining opportunities for nonresident anglers through reduced daily bag limits as well as an annual limit not applied to resident anglers. 5 AAC 47.055(c) through 5 AAC 47.055(i).
- King salmon. Nonresidents are obligated to complete a harvest record. 5 AAC 47.020(1).
- Demersal rockfish. resident: bag limit of one fish; possession limit of two fish; no annual limit; no size limit; nonresident: no open season; may not be taken or possessed. 5 AAC 47.020(8)(C).
- Sablefish. Unlike residents, nonresidents have an annual limit and are obligated to complete a harvest record. 5 AAC 47.020(17)(B).

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Marc Gorelnik (EF-F24-109)

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit nonresidents on charter vessels that have taken fish in the EEZ from offloading those fish in state waters, as follows:

If vessels charter fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska in contravention of State of Alaska regulations for non-residents, such as using resident bag limits, they should be prohibited from landing their catch in State waters. Otherwise, limits would be unenforceable. Non-residents already catch 75% of the sport fishing quota. Allowing more liberal fishing rules for non-residents would result in the quota being caught before residents in inside waters have even begun to fish. The proposed activity shows a lack of respect that non-resident guides and anglers have for conservation of king salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? California charter vessels have expressed interest in fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska with non-resident anglers but using resident bag limits. This could create chaos with regard to enforcement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-020)

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit nonresidents that have taken fish in the EEZ from possessing or offloading those fish in state waters, as follows:”)

Add language to 5 AAC 47.020:

"Non-residents fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska, not following State of Alaska regulations for non-residents, are prohibited from landing their catch in the State or possessing fish caught in federal waters, in state waters."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Charter operators have expressed interest in fishing in federal waters off SE Alaska with non-resident anglers but using resident bag limits. This could create chaos with regard to enforcement. In addition, it would infringe on the State's historic right to manage the sport salmon fishery statewide in both state and federal waters. If non-residents are allowed resident bag limits in federal waters, the sport fishery bag limits would be unenforceable. Non-residents already catch 75% of the sport fishing quota. Allowing more liberal fishing rules for non-residents would result in the quota being caught before residents in inside waters have even begun to fish.

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-F24-163)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Modify management and allocation provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

Reinstate the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 King Salmon Management Plan that sunset March 31, 2025, with the following changes to maintain stability in the troll fishery and allow the sport fishery to achieve an average harvest of 20 percent:

- (b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to
 - (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;
 - (2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;
 - (3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; [and]
 - (4) **allow for inseason transfer from the troll fishery to the sport fishery, not to exceed 5 percent of the troll/sport allocation for the year;**
 - (5) [(4)] allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.
 - (n) **The department shall implement the following reductions for nonresident anglers in waters not subject to wild stock closures in that year if the nine-year rolling average of the sport fishery harvest exceeds 22 percent on consecutive years; reductions will lift when the nine-year rolling average reduces to 20 percent or below;** [The provisions of this section do not apply after March 31, 2025.]

- (1) A nonresident bag limit of one king salmon;**
- (2) for tiers (c)(d)(e)(f)(g) and (h), from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of three king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;**
- (3) for tiers (c)(d)(e) and (f), 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; from July 16 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;**
- (4) for tier (g), 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 a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 will apply towards the two fish annual harvest limit; from July 8 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;**
- (5) for tier (h), from July 1 through July 7, 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 two fish annual harvest limit; from July 8 through December 31, retention of king salmon for nonresidents is prohibited;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Changes in the 2019-2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty annex altered the landscape for the Southeast sport fishery by adding a payback provision that effectively prohibits longstanding historical management of the sport fishery to an average harvest. Managing on average made up for a lack of allocation in low abundance, and for the inability of the sport fishery to harvest its full allocation in high abundance. A fixed 20% allocation geared to in season management does not fit the dynamic of the fishery.

In the 2022 Southeast finfish meeting, the Board adopted a sport fishery management structure that addressed the problem by modifying limits for anglers that rearranged harvest opportunity across abundance levels to stabilize the fishery and target the historical 20% average harvest. The arrangement incorporates give and take from the troll fishery, conceptually similar to earlier management.

The idea behind the 2022 agreement adopted by the Board was sound, but there were unforeseen consequences (i.e., a severely truncated August king troll opening in 2023). This proposal adds necessary protections for the troll fishery to address seasonal stability and ensure an average troll harvest equivalent to 80% of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling.

If this proposal is not adopted, the sport fishery will face frequent in season management if held to a yearly 20% allocation target. This severely compromises harvest opportunity for anglers in low abundance, destabilizing the fishery. It also sets up the sport fishery to never achieve its allocation given it lacks power to harvest 20% in high abundance. In low abundance, cautious management to avoid overages will also add to the fishery falling short of allocation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (HQ-F24-127)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the structure of the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* by removing management tiers and other provisions, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

- (a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060 The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

- (b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to:

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain a [AN average] harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow [UNINTERRUPTED] sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) [ALLOW FOR THE TRANSFER OF ANY PROJECTED UNUSED BALANCE IN SPORT ALLOCATION TO THE TROLL FISHERY AT A DATE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.]

(c) **The department shall manage the sport fishery to the annual sport harvest ceiling as follows:** [WHEN THE ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS ABOVE 67,505 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:]

(1) **the department shall manage the sport fishery;** [A RESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(2) **to take 70 percent of the sport fishery allocation between January 1 and July 1;** [A NONRESIDENT BAG LIMIT OF ONE KING SALMON, 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(3) **to take the remaining 30 percent of the sport fishery allocation between July 1 and December 31;** [FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, A NONRESIDENT ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT OF THREE KING SALMON, 28

INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(4) **resident bag limit of 2 king Salmon, 28 inches or greater.** [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 ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 55,261 AND 67,505 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) 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 ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT

FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 43,644 AND 55,260 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) 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 ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 32,191 AND 43,643 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) 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 ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 22,388 AND 32,190 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) 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) [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 ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS BETWEEN 19,752 AND 22,388 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) [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) [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 ALLOCATION OF KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS LESS THAN 19,752 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.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Action on the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan is necessary since the existing regulation expire March 31 2025.

King salmon are a finite resource and it is crucial that the department have all tools available to manage each sector according to its allocation. One sector should be allowed to flourish to the detriment of another. The King Salmon Management Plan agree to by stakeholders SEAGO, Territorial Sportsmen, and ATA at the 2022 Southeast Alaska Board of fish meeting (2022 meeting) in Anchorage, and then amended at the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of fish sunsets in 2025. The agreement between stakeholders at the 2022 meeting did not work for two of the three parties. I was an original signatory at the 2022 meeting and attended the 2023 Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting as well. This proposal aims to give the Department all tools for managing king salmon to the rigid requirements of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, prioritize resident anglers, and keep all gear groups within their allocation.

Since the original agreement, the structure for determining the all-gear treaty harvest limit has changed to the detriment of Alaska's share of treaty king salmon. It is highly unlikely that Alaska will be in moderate-high to high tier in the near future, making it very important that all king salmon harvesters and users have a reliable percentage. This proposal decouples Alaska King salmon management from the tier structure, models, and other moving targets of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, which reduces workload for both the Board of Fish and The Department.

This proposal prioritizes resident bag limits since the sport fishery is a quasi subsistence fishery in southeast Alaska. This resident sport harvesters faces increasing pressure from a heavily-capitalized guide sector. Food security is a critical issues for rural communities in Alaska in general and rural southeast Alaska specifically. Increasing food and fuel costs make local resources, such as king salmon, necessary for the economic stability of southeast Alaska residents.

From multiple conversations with the guide sector I learned that access to kings salmon prior to July 1 is important to their operation. It seeks to balance this desire with the needs of communities on inside waters who have only been allowed to harvest king salmon later in the summer, and have been restricted based on higher catch rates on the outer coast. This proposal gives The Department all tools necessary to manage the sport fishery to its allocation in they way that best suits the needs of the sport fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. While I developed this proposal on my own is it heavily influenced by my conventions at Board of Fish meetings with members of SEAGO and Territorial Sportsmen; resident sport fishermen in Sitka, rural subsistence users, and commercial trollers. I plan on taking this proposal to the Sitka AC prior to the 2025 southeast Alaska Board of Fish meeting in Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Jacqueline Foss (HQ-F24-038)

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Manage the sport fishery inseason to achieve the annual king salmon allocation to the sport fishery as follows:

The solution is to adopt the below language which covers both the signed agreement and takes into account that the CPUE is no longer used as quota predictor.

5 AAC 47.055 is amended to read:

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management

measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain **an average** harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the **sport fishery** harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation. 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) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation. 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) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** 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) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** 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) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** 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) 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) a resident bag limit of two king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, will be established in areas where Member Carlson-Van Dort RC063 conservation management measures have prohibited king salmon retention or closed fishing for king salmon for all anglers once they reopen.

(h) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 19,381 and 22,327 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** 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) 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) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is less than 19,381 fish the **sport fishery harvest limit will be 20% of the year's treaty king salmon allocation remaining after subtraction of the net allocation.** 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 JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This Proposal Restores the Original 2022 Stakeholder Agreement between Territorial Sportsmen Inc (TSI), Alaska Trollers Association (ATA), and Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO), eliminates the Sunset Clause, and aligns with new requirements of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).

5 AAC 47.055 (the SEAK King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan) was significantly altered by RC 063 which was passed at the Lower Cook Inlet BOF Meeting in Homer (11/30/23). **It removed limits on the SEAK Chinook non-resident annual sport harvest. It eliminated in-season management of the fishery. RC 063 also rewrote the difficultly negotiated and unanimously passed stakeholder Agreement (RC 178) adopted at the March 2022 Anchorage BOF meeting.**

RC 063 was submitted by BOF Member Carlson-Van Dort. It updated the SEAK management plan to align with recent PST modifications which changed the method Chinook availability was

predicted from a CPUE (Catch Per Unit Effort) model to the Treaty's AI (Abundance Index) model. **Although correctly taking into account this PST modification language in RC 063 also caused significant problems.**

a) RC 063 creates a conservation issue by allowing non-resident sport anglers to fish with no in-season management. This is the consequence of eliminating the words "sport fishery" from the phrase "sport fishery harvest ceiling" in 5 AAC 47.055(b)(2). This elimination allows non-resident sport fishing to occur uninterrupted throughout a season, even if the sport fishery exceeds the 20% sport allocation set forth in 5 AAC 29.060(b)(1)-(5). Without in-season management it is possible for overages in the unlimited and growing non-resident sport sector to cause total harvest to exceed the entire SEAK Chinook allocation.

For example by late July of 2023 monitoring, although inadequate, informed the Department that the non-resident sport harvest would exceed allocation by at least 15,000 Chinook. Ir-regardless the Department took no action to slow or close the non-resident harvest. Instead, in an August 4th Press Release, the Department deducted the non-resident sport overage from the commercial troll allocation. Monitoring without corresponding action is not management.

b) In-season management is the cornerstone of Alaska's well-respected historic management practice. Its elimination is not only contrary to Alaska's Policy for the management of sustainable Salmon fisheries (5AAC 39.222), but RC 063 also ignores directives **laid out in the PST, which encourages parties to use "in-season indicators" (PST Chapter 3, paragraph 7(b), page 61.**

In 2022 it was **SEAGO** that requested that 'The Agreement (RC 178)' **eliminate the language; "PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE SPORTS FISHERY BY ELIMINATING INSEASON REGULATORY CHANGES, EXCEPT THOSE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES"** from 5AAC 47.055 (b) (5). The intent here was to return to in-season management which is a cornerstone of Alaska's sustainable fisheries policy.

c) Besides eliminating all practical ADF&G in-season management of non-resident sport Chinook harvest in **SEAK RC 063 is out of compliance with the PST.** In 2023 non-resident sport went 17,000 kings over their harvest ceiling. The harvest of these 17,000 Chinook was moved from late Summer to the Spring. The process of moving Chinook harvest from one time of year to another targets different runs and is called 'Shaping'. **Shaping is not allowed under the PST.**

d) At 3 kings/fisher the non-resident Annual Chinook sport bag limit is too liberal for May and June. May and June are when mature Alaskan Stocks of Concern (SOC) are running.

Except in very limited hatchery access areas only outside sport harvesters are fishing Chinook at this time. In 2023 non-resident sport anglers significantly exceeded their allocation. The new language encourages non-resident sport anglers to target Alaska stocks at the entrances of SOC corridors when and where the historic commercial fishery no longer has access. The majority of Alaska resident sport fishermen live on inside waters that are closed to Chinook retention in Spring. The spring sport harvest dominated by guided non-resident visitors negatively impacts SEAK residents.

e) With high availability of Treaty Chinook, no in-season management, and an artificially low SEAK king quota, non-resident sport anglers can go well over their allocation as they did in 2023.

After predictable non-resident overages, to keep Alaska within the Treaty allocation, the 2023 commercial troll harvest was reduced by over 10%. 85% of troll fishers are Alaskan residents (CFEC) while 75% of SEAK sport harvest is by non-residents (ADF&G Special Publication No. 21-10, pg 23). RC 063 effectively transferred an important Alaska resource away from Alaska residents to non-resident sport fishers. **This is a violation of the Alaska Constitution's resident preference (Article 8, Section 2).**

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes with TSI as they were one of the other signers of the March 20, 2022 agreement between TSI ATA and SEAGO, also known as RC178

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-023)

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the management provisions and target allocation for the king salmon sport fishery, as follows:

(a)The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

(b)The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission (**PSC**), after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) Allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon while not exceeding the [HARVEST CEILING] **the annual management target percentages as outlined in (c) through (i) below, or the PSC harvest ceiling; and**

(3) Allow for a maximum nonresident annual harvest limit of 4 king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length; and

(4) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(5) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 fish, **a management target of 19% after the subtraction of the**

commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling will be calculated and applied to the sport allocation 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) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD, (to be determined by department and sport representatives attending the meeting)** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
 - (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** 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] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;
 - (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** 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] **TBD** 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish, a **19% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 52,650 and 65,561 fish 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) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE] **TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;
 - (4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** 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] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;
 - (5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** 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] **TBD** 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish, an **adjusted 20% management target between 42,685 and 52,649 fish will be applied 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) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** 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] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE]**TBD** 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] **TBD** 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish, **a 21% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 36,018 and 42,684 fish 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) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(4) from July 1 through July 15, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** 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] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit

(5) from July 16 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** 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] **TBD** 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish, a **22% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 24,561 and 36,017 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through July 7, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [TWO] **TBD** 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] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(4) from July 8 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD**

(5) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 19,381 and 22,327 fish, a **22% management target after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 will be applied, and will be between 21,319 and 24,560 fish and** the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [THREE]**TBD** king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(3) from July 1 through December 31, a nonresident annual harvest limit of [ONE] **TBD** 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] **TBD** fish annual harvest limit;

(4) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is less than 19,381 fish, **a 22% management target will be calculated and applied to the sport allocation after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 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 JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The King Salmon Management Plan, (KSMP), has no mechanism to prevent the annual nonresident sport harvest from reaching levels that negatively impact other user groups. This proposal suggests management targets that range from 19-22 percent, with the intention of curbing extreme sport Chinook harvests that create several serious issues. If managed properly, this proposal avoids long term Chinook fishery problems, and results in the sport treaty Chinook harvest maintaining the objective of a 20 percent average after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060. The present KSMP, with the open-ended sport harvest regime, has complex problems that don't involve just a simple 20% average.

First and foremost, due to the terms of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) agreement which include new incidental mortality provisions, the current KSMP has potential to cause serious trouble for Alaska's Chinook fisheries.

In 2022, the Department commented on proposal 91 that would have allowed trollers to catch 100% of their allocation during the July opening in low abundance years. The Department stated that:

Under terms of the 2019 PST, the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) implemented guidelines for acceptable levels of incidental mortality in AABM fisheries and developed triggers for incidental mortality levels that would precipitate a discussion to determine if fishery adjustments were needed, and to recommend any appropriate remedial action to ensure that the parties do not exceed incidental mortality limits.

Additionally, the 2019 PST agreement includes a commitment to discuss within the Commission significant management changes that a Party is considering, that may alter the stock or age composition and incidental mortality of a fishery regime's catch.

The sport fishery under the current KSMP, has the ability to negatively impact other fisheries incidental mortality levels and stock compositions. In 2023, when the sport fishery harvested 28.9% it caused the troll Chinook opening in August to be restricted to just one day. Not only did that alter that fisheries stock and age composition, it increased the incidental mortality of the fishery. It is not inconceivable, that if we continue with this plan, the unrestricted sport fishery will have the potential to eliminate the troll August king opening altogether on similar to lower quota years.

Since the sport fishery is only restricted under the KSMP if in danger of forcing Alaska over its PST allocation, any unharvested Chinook allocation available to the net fisheries is susceptible to forfeit to the sport fishery as well. Even though the net fisheries are considered outside of the troll/sport treaty Chinook sharing agreement, if there is only net Chinook allocation available, the sport fishery could take it under this KSMP, whether the nets can harvest it or not. Again, possibly generating incidental mortality concerns with those fisheries as well. This proposal has management threshold targets that will prevent this from happening.

The second issue is that as far as Chinook fishery management as a whole, having one user group operating without in-season management creates problems when trying to achieve both management and allocation objectives. The commercial fishery managers have hard target percentages of treaty Chinook they are managing for, and having the sport fishery harvest constantly invade and change those targets can create chaos. This proposal puts all managers on the same playing field with concrete Chinook harvest targets to manage for.

The current KSMP generates tension and anxiety among the commercial user groups who depend on their harvest share of the treaty Chinook allocated to Alaska. Seiners, gillnetters and trollers should all be entitled to harvest their allocation of treaty Chinook salmon and the current plan jeopardizes that.

This proposal takes into account one of the main concerns expressed by the charter representatives, which is that in low abundances years, there aren't enough fish for the nonresident sport harvest to support a successful charter fishery. Although, I disagree with that, because the charter fishery was quite successful with a 20% hard cap in the past, I have proposed raising the sport management target to 22% for the three lowest abundance tiers. Yes, that will hurt the troll fleet in low abundance years, but I contend the fleet will recover those losses in the two upper tiers of abundances with a sport management target at 19%.

The current KSMP includes minor and, in my opinion, inconsequential changes to nonresident Chinook harvest during periods of low Chinook abundance. This proposal will require some adjustments to nonresident annual limits and ensure that nonresidents have a fair share of the conservation burden during those times.

I have left the annual limits for nonresidents to be determined by the department and sport representatives at the upcoming meeting. In the past when the sport fishery was managed to a cap of 20%, the sport representatives met with the Department to configure the management of their fishery. That worked well then and will also work for this proposal.

This proposal has a maximum nonresident annual limit of 4 kings, 28 inches or greater in length. In the past when the sport fishery was capped at 20%, in high abundance years, nonresidents were taking home 5 and 6 king salmon apiece and I think that is excessive. Basically, it can lead to waste when you consider the amount of additional species of fish a nonresident typically harvests on a fishing trip to Alaska.

This proposal does not affect the resident sport Chinook fishery and I agree with section (m) of this proposal where 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.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt (HQ-F24-028)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 29.060 Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and 5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Modify the sport allocation of king salmon and provisions for management, as follows:

Each spring the Pacific Salmon Commission produces an annual abundance forecast for not just the upcoming summer season, but a separate forecast for the season that is still a year away (the one-year-out forecast). This proposal utilizes the current year abundance forecast *and* the one-year-out forecast to set a non-resident harvest target for the one-year-out season. The intent is that the average annual proportion of the hook-and-line Chinook allocation caught by sport fishermen (including residents) over the 6-year period that includes the previous 4 years, the current year and the season that is a year away, will be 20%. The first four numbers in the average are the known actual percentage of the hook-and-line allocation caught by sport fishermen in previous four years. The fifth number is the ADF&G-calculated estimate of the percentage of the hook-and-line allocation that will be caught by sport anglers in the season that is just getting underway with the non-resident annual limits that were set the year prior and using the updated abundance data.

The target harvest for the sport fishery in the season that is a year way would be whatever number would make the 6-year rolling average come out to 20%.

Staff would be directed to estimate the amount of non-resident effort and the likely harvest from that effort under different combinations of annual limits throughout the season. With input from the charter industry (similar to how the guided halibut regulations are crafted) ADF&G staff would establish non-resident annual limits for the one-year-away season. (In other words, set the limits for the 2026 summer season in the spring of 2025.) While the limits could not be such that the anticipated harvest would cause the 6-year average to exceed 20%, the charter industry could request that the limits be set conservatively, intending to “bank” some percentage for subsequent years while respecting the 20% average.

Example: If in the spring of 2025, the sport catches in 2021-2024 were known to have been 19.5%, 13.8%, 29.0%, and 17.0% of the hook-and-line allocation respectively, and given the updated abundance forecast the 2025 catch is anticipated to be 20.3%, then the 2026 target would need to be 20.4% of the hook-and-line allocation to make the 6-year average come out to 20.0%. (Since the average of 19.5, 13.8, 29.0, 17.0, 20.3 and 20.4 = 20.0) If in April of 2025, the one-year-away forecast for 2026 indicated that the hook-and-line allocation would be 180,000 fish in 2026, the non-resident annual limits for 2026 would be set such that the anticipated total sport harvest would be no higher than 20.3% of 180,000 or 36,540 kings.

This proposal does not seek to alter the existing resident bag limits which would continue to be set at the beginning of the current season, nor change the two-rod provisions of the current sport king salmon management plan. Neither the resident nor non-resident fisheries would be subject to in-

season management for allocative reasons, but both could be closed if the SE all-gear harvest ceiling has been reached.

Accounting for past years' harvest when setting the annual limits provides the management tools necessary to achieve the 20% average goal, but by setting the annual limits more than a year in advance, charter clients will know how many kings they will be allowed to catch when they are considering booking a trip.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? One of the long-established goals of the SE Sport King Salmon management Plan has been to manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20% of the hook-and-line allocation, but the word "average" has never been defined, leading to conflicting and ambiguous interpretations.

Furthermore, the current SE Sport King Salmon Management Plan contains a sunset clause which will cause the plan to expire in 2025 unless the BoF replaces it. Additionally, the current version of the plan as implemented by staff in 2022, eliminates all provisions to dynamically guide the sport harvest towards the long-standing goal of attaining the average harvest of 20% of the hook-and-line Chinook allocation. Without meaningful abundance-based adjustments to the non-resident annual limits, the proportion of the catch taken by sportfishermen has varied wildly from 14% in 2022 to 29% in 2023. This volatility combined with the absence of any corrective mechanism makes it very doubtful that the 20% goal will be attained.

Some sort of proactive management action is needed in order to achieve the 20% goal. The king salmon fishery is simply too dynamic to wait 3 years for the BoF to make adjustments. However, the charter industry has previously opposed efforts to use in-season management tools to achieve the 20% goal on the grounds that this can leave clients who have pre-booked their trip feeling short-changed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The concept of utilizing the one-year-away forecast to set the non-resident annual limit for the season that is more than a year away was discussed at the March 2024 Sitka AC meeting, but the conversation did not progress to specific details.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-055)

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 29.060 Allocation of King Salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area and 5 AAC 47.055 Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan

Modify the provisions of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan and increase the sport allocation of king salmon, as follows:

Restore the 2022 Southeast king salmon management plan and adjust the allocation percentages between the troll and sport fisheries as follows to allow room for the sport fishery to achieve an average allocation of twenty percent without frequent in season management or long-term loss of allocation-

5 AAC 29.060

(b) The department shall manage the sport and commercial net and troll fisheries in accordance with the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission. During a directed king salmon fishery in District 8 and District 11, an allowable catch above the baseline harvest level will not be counted towards the annual harvest ceiling. The annual harvest allocation of the annual harvest ceiling for each fishery is as follows:

(1) purse seine fishery: 4.3 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(2) drift gillnet fishery: 2.9 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;

(3) set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;

(4) troll fishery: 75 [80] percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1);

(5) sport fishery: 25 [20] percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1);

(6) if the projected annual Southeast Alaska all-gear harvest is below the annual harvest ceiling, any remaining allocation from those gear groups listed in (1) - (3) and (5) of this subsection may be allocated to the troll fishery beginning at a season date determined by the department and established by emergency order.

5 AAC 47.055

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to (1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest at or below 25 [OF 20] percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southeast sport fishing for king salmon was managed for an average catch of 20% of the all-gear quota (less kings for the net fisheries) for almost two decades. Typically, sport allocation was left unharvested or harvested by other gear groups in high management tiers and the sport fleet took more than 20% in low management tiers which avoided the instability of in season management and afforded adequate fishing opportunity while staying within the sport allocation long-term.

That's no longer the exact case with recent changes in the Pacific Salmon Treaty without fresh approaches within the Southeast all-gear catch limit and between gear groups. If ADFG were to begin managing the sport fishery not to exceed its allocation on any year it would result in the sport harvest falling below 20% over time. This proposal revives the 2022 king salmon management plan and suggests a simple way to restore stability, flexibility, and fishing opportunity while targeting historical allocations.

Adjusting sport to 25% of the troll/sport allocation while using the bag and annual limits from the 2022 king management plan that target an average 20% harvest will give the sport fleet similar flexibility to harvest above its historic 20% in low abundance for sufficient opportunity while redirecting sport and net underage's to the troll fishery (under statute 5 AAC 29.060), allowing troll to meet or exceed its historical allocation of 80% over the time

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Insert the issue statement here.

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit in low allocation management tiers and other modifications to the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

(a) The commissioner shall establish, by emergency order, the king salmon sport fish bag and possession limits and all other necessary management measures based on the allocation to the sport fishery as determined by 5 AAC 29.060. The bag and possession limits and other management measures established by the commissioner will remain in effect until March 31 of the following year.

(b) The objectives of the management plan under this section are to

(1) manage the sport fishery to attain an average harvest of 20 percent of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;

(2) allow uninterrupted sport fishing in salt waters for king salmon, while not exceeding the harvest ceiling;

(3) minimize regulatory restrictions on resident anglers; and

(4) allow for the transfer of any projected unused balance in sport allocation to the troll fishery at a date determined by the department.

(c) When the allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is greater than 69,014 fish 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) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 55,421 and 69,014 fish 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

(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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 42,685 and 55,420 fish 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

(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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 34,303 and 42,684 fish 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

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

(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 7 [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 8 [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 7 [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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is between 22,328 and 34,302 fish the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through June 30, a nonresident annual harvest limit of **two** [THREE] king salmon,

(3) from July 1 through **December 31** [JULY 7], a nonresident annual harvest limit of **one** [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 **one** [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) 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 allocation of treaty king salmon to the sport fishery, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060, is **less than 22,328** [BETWEEN 19,381 AND] fish, the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement the following management measures:

(1) a **resident and nonresident** bag limit of one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length;

(2) from January 1 through **December 31** [JUNE 30], a nonresident annual harvest limit of **one** [THREE] king salmon,

[(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) 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 ALLOCATION OF TREATY KING SALMON TO THE SPORT FISHERY, AS DETERMINED BY 5 AAC 29.060, IS LESS THAN 19,381 FISH 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 JULY 31, 2025.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current King Salmon Management Plan (KSMP) does not adequately address nonresident harvest in years of low treaty Chinook salmon abundance.

Even though they are responsible for the bulk of the sport caught Chinook in Southeast Alaska, there is very little change in nonresident annual harvest limits throughout the plan. There is a minimal sacrifice of one king from their annual limit in the three lower management tiers, one to two weeks in July, but nonetheless, their burden of conservation needs to be more.

Commercial users have lower quotas during times of low treaty Chinook abundance and are managed accordingly. Resident sport anglers daily bag limits, in general, are also lowered throughout the KSMP.

There are reasons other than simple fairness to decrease nonresident annual harvest limits in the lower tiers of abundance. A Department announcement on March 28, 2024 states:

The preseason outlook is for continued poor production of SEAK Chinook salmon stocks, including seven stocks (Chilkat, Taku, King Salmon, Stikine, Unuk and Chickamin Rivers and Andrew Creek) as Stocks of Management Concern. Although the Chilkat, Taku, Unuk stocks are projected to meet their escapement goals given no or little harvest occurring, run forecasts are still well below long-term average production. **This will necessitate a management regime aimed at minimizing catches of these stocks** in accordance with Board adopted action plans. [Emphasis added]

Several Southeast Alaska (SEAK) runs are currently managed under Stock of Concern (SOC) action plans to help them recover. Lower 48 and Canadian Chinook abundance often does not coincide with the abundance of SEAK runs. In most cases, the **lower** treaty Chinook abundance goes, SEAK runs become more susceptible to being caught. That is because the surrounding population of other stocks insulating them from harvest is down. When SEAK runs are in their lower cycle of abundance the matter of their conservation becomes more serious. SEAK Chinook are most prevalent in the local waters May and June, and in this case, increased SEAK harvest risks ruination of the SOC action plans advances. This is why the KSMP nonresident annual limit of 3 kings before July 1st, should be altered during low treaty Chinook abundances.

Since these SOC plans reopen areas near the river terminal area the middle of June, it is prudent, in the very lowest tier of treaty fish abundance, to change the resident bag limit in section (h)(4) to one king instead of two. The tail end of the SEAK runs are still in those surrounding waters and increasing the resident bag limit for those areas also poses a risk of reducing the gains attained by the SOC action plans. See Department run timing graph below. The graph lines from left to right show Taku, Stikine, Situk, Chilkat, Unuk and Chickamin Chinook runs.

The KSMP nonresident annual harvest limit of 3 kings through June 30th itself, is creating a client race to fish Alaska before July 1st. Tour ships begin visiting Southeast towns in May bringing more potential clients to fish in the areas that are not under SOC action plans. In Craig, the majority

of charter lodges are running at a moderate to high level by mid-June. All of these factors result in pressure building on the harvest of king salmon by nonresidents before July 1st. During low treaty Chinook abundances, not only do we have to consider SEAK runs, but also must address the fact that other treaty Chinook are in need of stricter conservation measures. Our KSMP needs to facilitate the recovery of those Chinook stocks simultaneously and it is lacking.

This proposal eliminates section (i) because it does not make rational sense. Why have a tier regarding sport harvest during the lowest abundance levels that instructs the commissioner to implement the harvest measures from two higher abundance tiers? In this proposal, any sport fishery allocation, as determined by 5 AAC 29.060 to be less than 22,328 fish, results in a nonresident annual limit of one king and resident anglers will have a daily bag limit of one king.

The charter operators will be impacted by this proposal on the lower tiers of abundance. This proposal keeps the basic foundation of the nonresident harvest plan intact with meaningful conservation measures in place. It also allows charter operators to entice clients with the prospect of harvesting at least one king in the very lowest abundance situation.

The current KSMP set nonresident annual harvest limits to aid the business plan of the charter industry, but business plans should never supersede conservation of the resource. If we start superseding conservation to the impacts on business plans, the best business plans of the future will fail because there won't be any salmon left to facilitate them.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt (HQ-F24-033)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the nonresident annual limit for king salmon to one fish, as follows:

The retention of 1 (one) Chinook Salmon for Nonresidents per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We should allow the retention of ONLY 1 (one) Chinook Salmon for Nonresidents instead of 3 (three). The detrimental effects of unregulated numbers of charter fishing vessels has greatly impacted the ability for residents to fulfill their need of retaining Chinook Salmon within Southeast Communities.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal was discussed and agreed upon resident sport fishers in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Cody Cowan (EF-F24-058)

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 L 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)

PROPOSAL 117

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:

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 coast wide 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 April 2024 the market price in Juneau was \$24/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,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We propose a two fish annual sport king salmon limit for non-residents prior to July 1 and one fish thereafter.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-022)

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)

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon for 2 days per week, as follows:

The nonresident king salmon sport fishery, both guided and non-guided, will close two days a week, which these days shall not coincide with Pacific Halibut closures for nonresidents, except within terminal harvest areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) (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. To take stress off of the wild run king salmon in southeast Alaska, we propose that king salmon harvested be restricted by time to allow for salmon to better escape back to their natal streams. This is done for the nonresident sport fishery for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and has shown to have positive impacts for the residents of southeast Alaska. The idea here is to have two days a week throughout the week be non-retention days for king salmon.

In order to alleviate concerns that the charter fleet may have, we would propose that the non-retention days do not overlap with that of Pacific halibut. This will allow ample opportunity for nonresidents to sport fish for different things if they plan on fishing on consecutive days. There are plenty of species to fish for throughout the year. While some may consider kings to be highly sought out after, we firmly believe that we need to be able to conserve for local Alaskans during times of reduced abundance.

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-F24-095)

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Close the nonresident sport fishery for king salmon on weekends, as follows:

The nonresident king salmon fishing power is such that the 20 percent sport quota can be taken before the end of June. With no in season management, this means the sport quota is meaningless and the excess fish has to come out of the troll quota. A two day per week closure is a 28% reduction in fishing time, which is exactly what is needed to bring the sport catch back within its intended limit. A side benefit is that the resident sport fishers will have much less competition on weekends.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to reduce weekly king salmon sport fishing time for nonresidents from seven days per week to five days per week by prohibiting nonresident king salmon fishing on Saturdays and Sundays. This proposal is intended to be effective Jan 1, 2026.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-018)

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 47.055. Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan.

Extend the sunset provisions in the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 47.055(n) is amended to read:

...

(n) The provisions of this section do not apply after July 31, **2028** [2025].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* directs the management of the king salmon sport fishery in Southeast Alaska. The current language of the plan includes a sunset clause meaning the management plan will cease to exist after July 31, 2025. This sunset clause was initially established to allow the board to review the performance of the management plan with consideration towards the allocation of king salmon to the sport fishery as guided by 5 AAC 29.060 *Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area*. Action by the board is required to continue the sport fishery for king salmon and the management provisions prescribed by 5 AAC 47.055. This would extend the sunset clause for another three years, corresponding with the next regularly scheduled Southeast Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting. While the department brings this provision to the

board's attention, it is in the discretion of the board to adopt a different sunset date or remove this clause entirely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-177)

King Salmon-Sport SOC action plans

PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.

Prohibit the removal of king salmon from the water when retention is not allowed, as follows:

Add language to the Southeast King Salmon Management Plan that states:

"King salmon may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately when king salmon retention is not allowed."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce incidental mortality of king salmon, especially for stocks of concern, when king salmon retention is prohibited by requiring anglers to release king salmon in the water immediately. This will reduce the handling of the fish and prevent anglers from removing the fish from the water. When king salmon retention is not allowed it is because the stocks need to rebuild and every effort should be made to ensure the king salmon that are caught are released unharmed.

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-F24-162)

PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.

Prohibit netting or handling king salmon when catch-and-release fishing is implemented, as follows:

In areas and times where catch and release fishing is the only method for capturing king salmon, prohibit netting or handling the fish. This will reduce incidental mortality, especially for stocks of concern.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prohibit handling of king salmon in catch and release fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc and Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F24-019)

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC XX.XXX.000. New Section.

Modify resident sport fishing opportunity prescribed by Southeast Alaska king salmon action plans, as follows:

In years when the ADF&G pre-season forecast for the Chilkat, Taku, Stikine or Unuk River Chinook run is anticipated to exceed the lower bound of the escapement goal, the sportfishery in the related saltwater district(s) or affected portions of those district(s) including SHA/THA opportunities, shall re-open for residents one week earlier than the re-opening dates established in the current SOC Action Plans. The non-resident sportfishery shall continue to adhere to the dates in the existing Action Plans until the SoC status is lifted or other change to the SoC plan is made.

Stock Related District(s) or portions of District(s)

Unuk 1-2

Stikine 5- 10

Taku 11

Chilkat 12-15

For example, if the Taku run is predicted to exceed 19,000 large Chinook, the Juneau area District 11 sport king fishery would reopen to residents on June 7 and reopen to non-residents on June 14 with the DH SHA reopening for residents on May 25 and to non-residents on June 1.

Alaska is required under the Treaty to manage our king fisheries in a manner that respects the escapement goals. Since this provision would only trigger in years when the escapement goal is expected to be met, and would only result in a very small harvest of wild Chinook, Alaska would remain in compliance with our Treaty obligations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stock of Concern restrictions that closed sport king fishing in the inside waters while spring spawners are present have placed a particularly heavy burden on resident sport fishermen, as the spring time has historically been the most productive time of year. Residents who live and work in the communities affected by the closures are not as mobile as commercial fishermen or non-resident sportfishermen. These latter user groups that can fairly easily relocate their fishing efforts to outside waters that remain open, but resident sport fishermen generally have work or school obligations that make traveling to distance waters not only expensive, but also impractical.

The dates of the closure were established when the stocks were at their lowest points and hence were set to be highly conservative. By the time all of the wild stocks leave the saltwater and the sport fisheries reopen, the hatchery fish are past their prime. In years when runs are partially recovered, but not yet to the point where all restrictions can be rescinded, these dates could be slightly relaxed for resident sportfishermen and still provide sufficient adequate protection for wild stocks while giving better access to hatchery kings while they remain bright.

As SE residents have only token access to officially-designated Chinook subsistence fisheries, SE residents meet their subsistence king salmon needs primarily through the sportfishery. As a quasi-subsistence fishery, the resident sportfishermen should have priority above other user groups, but the original SOC Action Plans did not provide for any degree of resident sport priority. Instead, the inside resident sportfishery has been proportionally the most affected of any of the directed Chinook fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have spoken with other resident sportfishermen about this concept, but have not brought it to any ACs. It would be considered out of area for my local AC.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-037)

PROPOSAL 125

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A when a stock of concern exists for king salmon stocks in Northern Southeast Alaska, as follows:

Add Language to 5 AAC 47.055

"When there are stocks of concern in Northern Southeast Alaska, excluding the Alsek & Situk River, Close District 14A to King Salmon sport fishing from April 1 through June 14."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? District 14A is the Cross Sound area at the western entrance to Icy Strait. All other migration corridors for northern Southeast stocks of concern are closed in the spring to protect Taku, Chilkat and Stikine chinook. This last zone also needs to be closed in alignment with the troll closure during the same time in the same area. In inside waters the important chinook stocks are managed on the basis that every fish counts. This migration corridor needs to be treated the same.

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-F24-167)

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Close sport fishing for king salmon in District 14A, as follows:

District 14A is the Cross Sound area at the western entrance to Icy Strait. All other migration corridors for northern Southeast stocks of concern are closed in the spring to protect Taku, Chilkat and Stikine chinook. This last zone also needs to be closed in alignment with the troll closure during the same time in the same area. In inside waters the important chinook stocks are managed on the basis that every fish counts. This migration corridor needs to be treated the same.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close district 14 A to King Salmon sport fishing from April 1 through June 14.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsman Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association

(HQ-F24-021)

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 47.XXX.New Section.

Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April near Ketchikan, as follows:

Personal use (residents) may retain king salmon 28" or greater for the full month of April. One king salmon per day per personal use angler of legal size.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the retention of 28" plus king salmon in unit 1A for year round Alaska residents for the full month of April. This has been a time frame to feed ourselves, children and grandchildren for years with high quality feeder kings.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, this proposal was presented to the Ketchikan Advisory Committee and is being put forth as an AC generated proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Advisory Committee (EF-F24-013)

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 47.XXX. New Section.

Allow residents to retain king salmon in the month of April in the Ketchikan area.

Personal use [residents] may retain King Salmon in unit 1A for the full month of April. One King per day, 28" or more per personal use angler.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return the retention of King Salmon in unit 1A for year round residents in the full month of April. This has been a time frame to feed our selves, children, and grandchildren for years of high quality 28" plus, feeder Kings.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No but I presented it to the AC in Ketchikan and they agreed to send this proposal in.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Jahnke (EF-F24-067)

King Salmon-Commercial

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring troll fishery.

Increase the number of days open in the Yakutat Bay spring troll fishery from 1 day to 2 days.

Execute the fishery on 2 separate days, rather than one 24 hour opener per week. This would increase the opportunity for trollers to harvest and would not change the overall 1000 fish allocation here so it won't affect other users.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently and since implementation the one day per week troll allocation has never been caught. Most years the catch is less than half. This allocation and economic potential for the community of Yakutat is not being fully utilized.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No, I am a resident of Yakutat and am submitting this on my own behalf.

PROPOSED BY: Casey Mapes

(HQ-F24-029)

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer troll fishery.

Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1.

Solution: A single uninterrupted summer king troll retention period beginning July 1.

We respectfully request a change in regulatory language enabling the troll fleet to harvest its entire summer king salmon quota share (its annual harvest allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060) starting with the July 1st king opener and continuing uninterrupted until concluded. Rather than two separate summer troll king openers as presently conducted, we propose one uninterrupted troll king opener during the summer king troll season, excepting any coho closure necessary to achieve escapement goals (during which all troll king salmon retention -- except as otherwise noted by the department -- would cease until the conclusion of the coho closure and king retention would resume immediately upon the resumption of coho retention).

This proposed solution greatly simplifies the regulations governing the summer king troll harvest, it assists the department in achieving its mission to apportion the troll fleet its mandated 80 percent share of the king allocation (after the nets' portion is assigned), and it obviates the necessity of regulatory language whose sole purpose is to address "what-ifs" and "what-thens" related to a second (separate) summer king troll harvest retention period in August.

Draft regulatory language:

5 AAC 29.100. remains unchanged except where formatting protocols indicate below and where repeated sequential deletions are noted (proposed deletions pertain to regulations governing a separate second troll king salmon opener in August).

5AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery

-----start proposed changes/deletions-----

(A) to take **100 percent** [70 PERCENT] of the remaining troll king salmon harvest allocation, calculated as the annual troll harvest allocation minus the winter and spring troll harvests of treaty king salmon, in an [INITIAL] opening beginning July 1; **areas of king salmon high abundance shall remain open for the entirety of the summer king salmon troll harvest allocation except as ordered by emergency order.**

[SEQUENTIALLY DELETE THE FOLLOWING IN THEIR ENTIRETY: (B), (i), (ii), (2), (A), (B)]

(B) if summer harvest retention of king salmon is still on-going at the start of any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery (to achieve escapement goals), troll king fishing shall cease during the coho closure -- except where explicitly specified -- and shall resume immediately upon the reopening of coho retention. King salmon retention shall remain open until the king salmon troll quota share (80 percent of the king salmon allocation once the nets' share has been deducted as prescribed in 5 AAC 29.060) is harvested or Sept. 20, whichever comes first.

-----end-----

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The troll fleet wishes to secure the fairest opportunity to harvest its legally allocated share of king salmon without drama or rancor or uncertainty. But complications exist, which include:

* The relatively low Southeast Alaskan king salmon quota share awarded at Treaty (with little optimism for future improvement) presents challenges for the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADFG) to fulfill its role as the executor of allocative apportionment among the affected gear groups.

* The vast majority of the king salmon harvested by non-resident sports (the charter fleet and bare boats -- whose numbers are unrestricted and growing) occur in the spring and early summer, compounding ADFG's apportionment challenges. (The majority of the troll fleets' king harvest occurs much later in July and August.)

* In August of 2023, ADFG revealed a regulatory change (as-then unknown to all stakeholders) which inscrutably abandoned in-season management for the non-resident sport fleet, resulting in an allocated overage by the sport sector of 17K kings. This led to a direct unrecoverable loss of 15.5K kings from the troll fleet's share to ensure that Alaska did not exceed its quota (gillnetters lost 1.5K kings from their allocative share as well).

* The troll fleet (as well as the resident-sport sector, whose participation and king harvest have remained remarkably consistent for the last 20 years) unwittingly finds itself in a "race to the fish" that no one knew existed until the regulatory change and an allocative transfer was made known to all by ADFG in August of 2023.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal enjoys the support of the ATA board.

PROPOSED BY: David Richey and Ken McGee, ATA board members (EF-F24-168)

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 29.100 Management of the summer troll fishery.

Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur.

5 AAC 29.100 (D) if the department determines that the number of king salmon remaining on the annual troll king salmon harvest allocation is not sufficient to allow a competitive fishery, **of at least 3 days**, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of king salmon during a limited harvest fishery, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) a limited harvest fishery may be opened for up to 10 days;
- (ii) more than one limited harvest fishery may occur in the same season if unharvested allocation remains.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current summer troll king salmon management begins with a competitive July opener targeting 70% of the summer quota, followed by a competitive August opener targeting the remainder of the quota and if necessary, a September equal share fishery to "sweep up" any kings that are left on the quota. While the July and August openings are long-established, the regulations governing the sweep up fishery were added much more recently. At the time of adoption, the regulation included many restrictions limiting this management tool while management and industry were getting accustomed to it. Now

that it has been used a couple of times, trollers that were initially uncertain how it would work have become more comfortable with this sort of opening and would like to see it used in more situations.

This desire was precipitated by the 2023 August opening which was only 1 day long. The coho troll fishery is required to close for two days ahead of a competitive king opening to ensure a fair start, but this closure is not required for an equal share fishery. When the August king opener is only one or two days long for all but the most highly-productive king producers, the benefits of a competitive opening are outweighed by the costs of the two-day coho closure and need for immediate offloading of kings following the short opener.

This proposal would give the department more latitude to utilize the equal share fishery as a tool in more scenarios, thus avoiding the need for unnecessary fair-start closures and artificially shortened trips in situations when competitive openings are too inefficient to justify

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I was motivated to submit this proposal after several other trollers expressed their dissatisfaction to me with the inconvenience and inefficiency associated with the 2023 August opener that lasted only one day.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-039)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 29.140 Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Establish a minimum size limit for Chinook salmon of 26 1/2 inches from snout to fork of tail in the spring troll fisheries.

5 AAC 29.140 (f) Not withstanding (a) of this section, in the spring troll fisheries, the minimum size limit for Chinook shall be 26-1/2” from snout to fork of tail.

(Note that if ADF&G data shows a different fork length to be the equivalent of 28” overall for immature kings, I would support using that length, but my observations indicate that an immature 28” king is about 26-1/2” in fork-length).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It can be difficult to precisely determine if a close-to-long-enough king salmon meets the current minimum size limit of 28" as measured from snout to tip of the tail. Sometimes the fish flex or point their tails as they are being measured, thereby changing their length by up to half an inch. While trollers try to compensate for this distortion, we have to take the measurement quickly in order that the fish can be released unharmed if it is too short. As king salmon have gotten smaller over the years, there are more fish that need to be measured every year, and a corresponding increase in the likelihood that a fish caught by well-intended fishermen is considered too short by enforcement personnel. Changing from an overall length measurement to a fork-length measurement would make it much easier to quickly obtain an accurate and consistent measurement since the fork-length doesn't change when the fish's tail changes posture. This will reduce stress on the released fish and cut down on disagreement with enforcement personnel when a fish goes into rigor mortis with their tail in a different position than when it was initially measured.

Utilizing a fork-length measurement during the spring season when the troll fishery is targeting Alaska hatchery kings would be particularly beneficial. Mature kings tend to be slightly larger than

immature kings of the same age. This difference is the reason that the 28" minimum length was adopted decades ago. It protects immature king salmon that should be released to grow bigger, while allowing the harvest of precocious "jack" spawners- fish that while small, will nonetheless soon spawn and die. However, using a fork-length measurement is a better way to distinguish between maturing Chinook and immature kings than an overall length.

As salmon mature, their tails become less forked, so while an immature king that has a fork-length of 26-1/2" is about 28" overall, a mature king with the same fork-length is about an inch shorter in overall length. Under the current regulations, the immature fish is borderline-legal to keep, but the mature king is not. By changing the measurement method from 28" overall to 26-1/2" fork-length during the spring season when trollers are targeting mature Alaska hatchery fish the spring troll catch of Alaska hatchery Chinook will increase without measurably increasing the catch of Treaty Chinook since the Treaty kings in the region are predominately immature during the spring troll season. This is an unmitigated benefit since the Alaska hatchery kings do not count against the quota imposed by the Treaty.

While this change might mean that very occasionally a mature "jack" SE wild Chinook would be caught and retained rather than released, the BoF should keep in mind that such a fish would be a "medium", not "large" size fish. Thus, even if it reached the river, it would not have counted towards escapement goals. These "jack" kings are typically surplus to reproductive needs, hence ADFG has long encouraged their harvest dating back to the work of pioneering SE Chinook ADF&G researcher Paul Kissner in the 1970's at a time when local wild runs were at even lower levels than they are now.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC has previously endorsed the concept of changing the minimum size limit in some spring fisheries to a fork length measurement multiple times in the past 4 years, and has submitted a Sitka-area-only proposal to do so in this board cycle. This proposal is similar but would apply to all spring troll fisheries instead of just the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-F24-038)

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 29.140. Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Allow for king salmon of 26 1/2 inches snout to fork length be retained in District 13 spring troll fisheries.

In the District 13 spring troll fisheries, the minimum size limit for Chinook shall be 26-1/2" from snout to fork. Permit holders must offload all Chinook salmon that are less than 28 inches prior to fishing in areas where retention of Chinook salmon less than 28 inches is prohibited.

(Or, if ADF&G data shows a different fork length to be the equivalent of 28" overall for immature kings, use that length).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

1. There are two issues that can be addressed with a single solution. In recent years more than half of NSRAA Chinook that are returning to the Sitka area have spent only 2 years in saltwater. About 30% of these young kings are less than the troll fishery minimum size

limit of 28” as measured from snout to tip of tail. However, about half of these “shakers” are within an inch of meeting the minimum length. The 28” minimum is a conservation measure intended to allow immature kings to grow bigger before being harvested, but it is an imperfect tool since a small mature NSRAA king that is released in May or June will not live long enough to grow significantly larger.

Maturation changes Chinook in many ways. One of the physical changes is that the “vee” in the Chinook’s tail fills in and the previously forked tail becomes nearly “square”. In other words, an immature king that is 28” in overall length would measure about 26-1/2” from snout to the fork of the tail, but a mature 28” king will be nearly 27-1/2” in fork-length. So, changing the minimum size limit from 28” overall to 26-1/2” from snout to fork of tail would allow trollers to keep more mature NSRAA kings while continuing to protect the small immature Treaty fish.

This should increase the spring troll catch of NSRAA Chinook by about 15% without increasing the catch of Treaty Chinook since the Treaty kings in the Sitka spring troll districts are immature at that time of year.

The spring troll fisheries targeting NSRAA Chinook are isolated from other spring Chinook troll fisheries by nearly 100 miles. In the last three years, 18,783 kings caught in the Sitka spring fisheries were sampled by ADFG personnel. Only 5 of these fish were landed at a port other than Sitka. Similarly, of the 18,778 spring kings sampled by ADFG in Sitka in the past three years, none of them were caught outside of Districts 12 or 13. Hence there should be no enforcement issues with having a different minimum length measurement in the Sitka area.

The Sitka area is also over 100 miles away from the nearest wild Chinook system, so there should be minimum concern for SE wild stocks; furthermore, even if a mature SE wild Chinook was caught due to this Proposal, it would be a “medium”, not “large” size fish and hence would not have counted towards escapement goals even it had not been caught.

The second issue that this proposal addresses is that the flexibility of a king salmon’s tail creates inconsistent measurements. Some fish naturally point their tails so that they are longer than 28” when they come aboard, but measure short after they have died and their muscles relax. Fishermen, plant workers, and Wildlife troopers can measure the same fish and each get slightly different lengths depending upon how the tips of the tail lay on the table. These inconsistencies are not an issue when measuring to the fork of the tail since the fork length doesn’t change when the fish’s tail changes posture. Thus, crew and skippers landing king salmon have a much quicker and consistent measurement resulting in less handling and higher survival of those released.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The Sitka AC is sponsoring this proposal. We have previously endorsed the concept of changing the spring fishery to fork length multiple times in the past 4 years, most recently on January 17, 2024.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka AC

(EF-F24-021)

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 33.392. Size limits and landing of king salmon.

Expand landing and retention requirements for king salmon by purse seine permit holders and establish penalties for violating landing requirements.

5AAC33.XX Unlawful Possession of King Salmon

(A) A Southeast Alaska Purse Seine permit holder shall not have king salmon retained, in their possession, or on board their purse seine vessel any king salmon unless permitted by emergency order. All king salmon not being retained, must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.

(B) If permitted under an emergency order, king salmon can be retained during an open fishing period. The king salmon must be offloaded and documented on an ADFG fish ticket under 5AAC39.130. All king salmon must be offloaded prior to participating in a future salmon purse seine open fishing period.

(C) The seine vessel or SE Alaska purse seine permit holder can not participate in a future SE Alaska purse seine salmon fishery for the statistical year unless subsection (B) is complied with. Violation of subsection (A) is punishable as a violation with a set fine on the Alaska Court Bail schedule of \$150 plus restitution of \$150 for each king salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Southeast Alaska(SE AK) salmon purse seine operators continue to catch and retain large numbers of illegal and undocumented king salmon.

Currently, it's illegal for purse seine operators to retain king salmon greater than 28 inches in length except for an opener or two during the summer. King salmon under 28 inches can be retained as personal use fish by emergency order.

Purse seiners do not specifically target a certain species of fish. They catch everything and its up to the crew of the seine vessels to sort the unwanted species (bycatch) such as steelhead and king salmon. Many crews sort the bycatch from going into the fish hold, some do not. The crews who do sort the fish effectively, take great pride in the fact that they can routinely conduct an offload of their catch and not have one illegal fish.

In areas of higher king salmon abundance such as the west side of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) and the lower east side of PoW, seiners can catch hundreds of king salmon during an opener. As one seine tender(buyer) reported, a single seine vessel during a 2023 offload had over 300 king salmon during a non-retention period. The tender captain was upset because the seine crew tossed all 300+ king salmon into the ocean during the offload. This type of event is routine. Fish processors instruct the tenders who purchase fish for them on the fishing grounds to toss all king salmon and steelehead onto the seine vessel or into the ocean.

One local processor in Craig during 2023 was educated by ADFG during mid-summer about donating king salmon. ADFG began to allow processors to take king salmon into the fish plants to be processed for donation only. The local Craig plant donated approximately 1000 king salmon to the communities on PoW. This was after Alaska Wildlife Troopers monitored seine offloads and the fleet was aware of the enforcement activities.

Residents of PoW are very aware and concerned about king salmon and the seine caught bycatch. Residents fish for king salmon during seine openings. They see one seine vessel haul its net and several king salmon will be instantly sorted and tossed back into the ocean while the vessel right next to the first vessel tosses nothing back. Residents watch these seine vessels return to the harbors and offload carts of king salmon. The local custom fish processors pick up the fish from the crew in direct view of the public eye. Almost all of these king salmon have not been reported on an ADFG fish ticket and are undocumented.

The East PoW AC discussed solutions to this issue. Several salmon studies were reviewed regarding the survival rates of net caught salmon. We also reviewed Washington State's regulation requiring Puget Sound seine boats to use a recovery box prior to releasing king salmon. We learned that recovery boxes do increase survival rates even if the fish are injured but even without the use

of recovery boxes, king salmon greater than 28" that were immediately released from a seine net still have decent survival rates.

During a East PoW AC meeting, a local SE AK salmon seine permit holder expressed his concerns about recovery box requirements. They would be burdensome to install and take a lot of room on the deck if they had to be big enough to hold all the fish they catch. They can catch a large number of kings at once so this would be impractical. The group agreed recovery boxes in SE AK were not a good solution. The local SE AK permit holder did agree that the best solution would be to set a penalty for every illegal king salmon of \$150/fish to deter this conduct.

The PoW Court has consistently issued the lowest fines to seine permit holders even though the PoW area has a real issue with seine vessels retaining illegal king salmon. Other courts issue fines up to 10 times higher than the PoW Court. It was agreed there should be a set fine per king salmon retained. The penalty should be a violation and not hold demeritus points. The recommended fine should be \$150 plus \$150 restitution for each king salmon.

The SE AK seine fleet is sloppy when they sort king salmon until Alaska Wildlife Troopers begin to monitor offloads. The local SE AK seine permit holder stated that it is very practical to sort kings and toss them overboard alive UNLESS they slow down a few extra minutes as they roll thousands of pounds of salmon on the deck and allow their crew the necessary time needed to release the kings alive. In years past, the whole seine fleet does this once enforcement begins monitoring the offloads.

If this regulation is passed, the AK Court Bail Schedule, Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Alaska Court System can easily issue violations with set fine amounts to those who retain illegal king salmon. The option of a court issuing extremely small fines will no longer be a factor and the extra few minutes of releasing king salmon alive will be worth it to the seine boat captains. The fine is set equal to the sport fishing fine for illegal retention of a king salmon.

If passed, this will also show that Alaskans are doing our part to conserve king salmon, eliminate bycatch and preserve our fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The East PoW AC.

PROPOSED BY: East PoW AC

(EF-F24-135)
