

Yakutat Area

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 01.660. Fishing season and periods.

Change the weekly subsistence fishing periods in the Yakutat Area from 6:00 a.m. to 12:01 a.m. start time and 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. end time.

5 AAC 01.660

Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions in Yakutat, AK

Unless extended by emergency order, from the beginning of the commercial salmon set net season through the end of the commercial salmon net season, the weekly subsistence fishing period is from 12:01 am Friday to 11:59 pm Saturday.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Subsistence and Personal Use Salmon Fishing Permit Conditions for the Yakutat area allow fishing from 6am Friday to 6pm Saturday, beginning with commercial salmon net openers through the end of the commercial salmon net season. During public comment sessions held in Yakutat, tribal members and residents expressed they do not have enough fishing opportunity to harvest adequate fish for the year with the current subsistence openings. We propose extending these times to allow fishing from 12:01am Friday to 11:59pm Saturday. The Situk River has over escaped sockeye ten of the last fifteen years, and providing more opportunity for subsistence fishing should be priority over other fisheries to manage for this over escapement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

(EF-F24-084)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 47.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

and 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify the nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the freshwaters of the Yakutat management area and the Situk River, as follows:

5 AAC 47.022(c)(1)(C) is amended to read:

...

[THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the nonresident annual limit **is two** [FOR] **king salmon, 20** [28] inches or greater in length, [AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 47.055] **and does not count toward the nonresident annual harvest limit established under 5 AAC 47.055**; a harvest record is required for a nonresident as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

5 AAC 47.023(b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

...

repealed / / ; [A KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The nonresident annual limit for king salmon in the fresh waters of the Yakutat Area currently mirrors those established by the provisions of 5 AAC 47.055 *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* which directs the management of Southeast Alaska king salmon sport fishery in marine waters. Under this management plan, nonresident annual limits are established according to the allocation of king salmon to the sport fishery under the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and may not be appropriate management measures for king salmon runs in the Yakutat Area freshwaters. The freshwater harvest of king salmon in the Yakutat Area occurring on non-transboundary rivers is not subject to the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Establishing a nonresident annual limit of two king salmon, 20 inches or greater, provides a consistent management regime while continuing to limit the harvest potential for nonresident anglers on these relatively small king salmon systems. This would not impact the department's ability to use emergency order authority to restrict the sport fishery for conservation purposes.

This would remove the special provision for the Situk River which currently directs the department not to apply the nonresident annual limit established under 5 AAC 47.055 to the Situk River. Due to the small run size and large proportion of nonresident anglers on the Situk River, applying a nonresident annual limit allows for a controlled harvest opportunity. This would apply the nonresident annual limit of 2 king salmon over 20 inches to the Situk River unless otherwise called for under 5 AAC 30.365 *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Management Plan*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-173)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to reflect recent management strategies, as follows:

5 AAC 30.365 is amended to read:

(a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to provide for the biological escapement goal requirements of spawning king salmon to the Situk-Ahrnklin River systems. This management plan provides guidelines to the department in an effort to preclude allocation conflicts between the various user groups of the king salmon resource. Action points and associated ranges within the plan are intended to be based on the current king salmon escapement goal ranges for the Situk River system.

(b) The biological escapement goal for the Situk River king salmon is 730 three ocean age and older fish, with a range of 450 - 1,050 fish.

(c) The department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as follows:

(1) **until at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED

ESCAPEMENT IS LESS THAN 350 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] the king salmon **fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River shall be closed;**

(B) **retention of king salmon in the** subsistence, personal use, and commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River **shall be prohibited;** and

(C) **the** commercial troll fishery **shall be closed** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.,** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. lat., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(D) weekly fishing periods in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries may be restricted;

(2) **when at least 450 three ocean age or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 350 - 450 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH THE COMMISSIONER] **the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows:**

(A) **the subsistence fishery will have priority over sport and commercial fisheries and may open for retention of king salmon prior to the sport and commercial fisheries;**[SHALL, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE THE SPORT FISHERY FOR KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER; AND]

(B) **retention of king salmon in the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River may be allowed;** [MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES:]

(i) **repealed / /** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES;]

(C)[(II) CLOSE] the commercial salmon troll fishery **may open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.; **and**

(iii) **repealed / /** **RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES;** **and**

(D) the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River may open downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;

(3) **when at least 730 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth the king salmon fisheries are to be managed as follows:** [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS 451 - 730 THREE OCEAN AGE OR OLDER FISH], the commissioner shall, [BY EMERGENCY ORDER, IMPLEMENT

ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES]:

(A) **allow retention of king salmon in the subsistence fishery;** [ESTABLISH A NONRETENTION KING SALMON SEASON IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES:]

(B) the commercial salmon troll fishery **will open** in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the [SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE] three-nautical-mile **limit of the** territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59° 30.49' N. lat., 139° 46.58' W. long. [(OCEAN CAPE)] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 28.44' N. lat., 139° 51.68' W. long.** [59° 28.65' N. lat., 139° 51.17' W. long.] and on the south by a line extending seaward from **59° 21.07' N. lat., 139° 19.73' W. long.** [59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG.] and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at **59° 19.08' N. lat., 139° 24.98' W. long.** [59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(C) **manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based solely on the sockeye salmon run strength, while allowing for the retention of king salmon; and** [RESTRICT THE WEEKLY FISHING PERIODS IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER SET GILLNET FISHERIES; AND]

(D) **open the sport fishery for king salmon in the Situk River in the section of river located downstream of the weir located at approximately river mile 2;** RESTRICT THE SPORT HARVEST OF KING SALMON IN THE SITUK RIVER BY IMPLEMENTING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

(I) CLOSE PORTIONS OF THE SITUK RIVER TO SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON;

(II) ESTABLISH A CATCH AND RELEASE SPORT FISHERY ONLY FOR KING SALMON 28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

(4) **repealed** / / [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 730 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH BUT LESS THAN 1,050 FISH, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL,

(A) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SET GILLNET FISHERIES IN THE SITUK-AHRNKLIN INLET AND LOST RIVER BASED ON THE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN STRENGTH;

(B) MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL SALMON TROLL FISHERY AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 29.100 IN THE WATERS OF ALASKA BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY THE SEAWARD LIMIT OF THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND ON THE NORTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 30.49' N. LAT., 139° 46.58' W. LONG. (OCEAN CAPE) AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE LIMIT AT 59° 28.65' N. LAT., 139° 51.17' W. LONG. AND ON THE SOUTH BY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD FROM 59° 20.30' N. LAT., 139° 16.50' W. LONG. AND INTERSECTING THE THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE LIMIT AT 59° 18.25' N. LAT., 139° 21.94' W. LONG.];

(5) [IF THE PROJECTED ESCAPEMENT IS GREATER THAN 1,050 THREE OCEAN AGE AND OLDER FISH] **when 1,050 three ocean or older king salmon have passed the Situk River weir located approximately 2 miles upstream of the mouth,** the department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as necessary to harvest large king salmon in excess of the biological escapement goal range; to achieve this goal the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement one or more of the following management measures:

(A) liberalize seasons, areas, and method and means in the Situk River under 5 AAC 75.003(2)(A);

(B) increase the **sport fish** bag, [AND] possession, **and/or annual** limits for king salmon **20** [28] inches or greater in length [TO THREE FISH PER DAY AND SIX IN POSSESSION WITH NO ANNUAL LIMIT];

(C) repealed 7/13/2012;

(D) manage the commercial set gillnet fisheries in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River based on the sockeye salmon run strength;

(E) in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River set gillnet fisheries, allow the use of one additional gillnet that is no more than 20 fathoms in length and no more than 45 meshes in depth, with a mesh size of no less than seven and one-half inches, for the directed taking of king salmon during periods when sockeye salmon may or may not be retained.

5 AAC 47.023 (b)(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) **sport fishing for king salmon is closed unless specified by 5 AAC 30.365** [A KING SALMON 28 inches or GREATER IN LENGTH TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THAT NONRESIDENT'S ANNUAL HARVEST LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER 5 AAC 47.055];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would revise the *Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* by establishing management actions based on the number of king salmon that pass the Situk River weir rather than the projected escapement. In recent years, the department has been more conservative in the early season than the management plan calls for, given the period of low productivity observed for king salmon across Southeast Alaska. This has included being more conservative in the management of the subsistence and commercial gillnet fisheries and using emergency order authority to proactively close the sport fishery for king salmon to ensure the biological escapement goal is met. This would more closely align the management plan with the management actions the department has implemented in recent years. The Situk River king salmon run is relatively small in numbers and fish often pass the weir in pulses. This can create a highly variable projected escapement as the basis of management actions. Basing management actions on the number of king salmon that pass the weir is a more reliable management approach that will better align harvest opportunity with abundance of king salmon returning to the Situk.

This would also update the southern boundary of the Situk River troll fishery closure area to provide consistency with 2018 BOF action taken on 5 AAC 29.100, which addressed a change in the location of the terminus of the river mouth. Due to an oversight, similar changes to 5 AAC 30.365 were not addressed at that time. The proposed change to 5 AAC 30.365 is consistent with annual changes made by the department under emergency order authority and also includes updates for the location of coordinates along the three-nautical-mile limit line.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-174)

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 30.365. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close a portion of the Situk River to sport fishing until the escapement goal for king salmon is met, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 47.023 –Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

In the Situk River – within 50 yards of the 9-Mile Bridge on Forest Highway 10, sport fishing is closed June 1 – August 15 unless the upper end of the escapement goal of 1050 is met for chinook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chinook salmon in the Situk River have struggled to reach minimum escapement since 2008, with eight of the past sixteen years being below minimum. To address conservation concerns, we propose closing a popular chinook holding hole, which consequently receives high sport fishing pressure. 9-mile Bridge is an easy vehicle access fishing site that receives high fishing pressure and chinook interactions. We considered closing this location year-round, but we prefer the least restrictive action to focus this effort on chinook conservation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to hold meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-083)

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close sport fishing in a portion of the Situk River between April 15 and May 15, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 47.023 –Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(B) from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the West Fork of the Situk confluence to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

Alternative option:

From ADF&G regulatory markers located at the top end of the island 1.5 miles above 9-Mile Bridge to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the outlet of Situk Lake, sport fishing is allowed only from May 16 - April 14

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Steelhead in the Situk River have experienced poor returns in the last three years. To address this conservation concern, we propose expanding closures to alleviate fishing pressure on spawning grounds. Education and signage bringing awareness to redds has not been a successful tool on the Situk River. Although steelhead spawn throughout the Situk River, above 9-Mile Bridge receives heavy foot traffic that often hike in river, which impacts redds. We propose expanding the current steelhead closure downstream to the West Fork of the Situk, specifically at 59.590685, -139.492510 and to the outlet of Situk Lake, at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Alternative option: Close at 59.597200, -139.479092 to the outlet of Situk Lake at 59.631606, -139.410053.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was written by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) Fisheries Committee and approved by the YTT Tribal Council. The Yakutat Advisory Committee has not reached quorum to meet.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (EF-F24-085)

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the sport fish bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in the fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(b)(8) is amended to read:

...

[IN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER AND ALL DRAINAGES FLOWING INTO OR BETWEEN THE LOST RIVER AND AHRNKLIN RIVER, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR SOCKEYE SALMON IS A BAG LIMIT OF THREE FISH AND A POSSESSION LIMIT OF SIX FISH.] **repealed / / ;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2009, the Board of Fisheries reduced the bag and possession limit of sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary from six per day, twelve in possession, to three per day, six in possession. In the 15 years since 2009, the Situk River has exceeded the upper end of its escapement goal (30,000 – 70,000) in 10 of those years. In 9 of the 10 years the escapement goal was exceeded, emergency order authority was used to increase the bag and possession limit to six fish per day, twelve in possession on an average date of July 11 when approximately 54% of the run has passed the Situk River weir. Increasing the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon in fresh waters flowing into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary would aid the department in managing the sockeye salmon to within levels of the escapement goal range of 30,000 – 70,000 by starting the season at a higher harvest rate.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-175)
