

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal mandatory weekly closures in the commercial set gillnet fishery as follows:

Eliminate windows from all management plans.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Mandatory window don't work. They are simply unreasonable allocations. They prevent the managers from harvesting the surplus salmon. Delete mandatory windows from all management plans. Mandatory windows restricts the flexibility for the managers to manage on a real time basis, based on in season abundance and salmon migration, to harvest the surplus of all salmon species and results in gross over-escapements and the waste of valuable harvestable salmon surpluses. Mandatory windows has resulted in tens of millions of harvestable salmon going un-harvested and negatively affects the commercial fishing industry, communities, National food source, interstate commerce, economies and also decreases future salmon production resulting from the effects of over escapement. It also violates the Magnuson Stevens Act. The sports fishery has a reasonable opportunity to fish and reasonable numbers of salmon to harvest. In comparison the commercial fisherman, when restricted or closed down, has no other area to fish because they are restricted to the areas and their gear type by their limited entry permit they own. There is unfair and has no parity in reasonable opportunity between commercial and recreational fisheries under the current management plans. Because of overly restricted commercial fishing management plans only around half of the CFEC permit holders are currently participating in the Cook Inlet fishery, thereby reducing their harvest potential by half.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-035)
