

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods, 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 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan.

Modify weekly fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict and adopt new 'paired restrictive' management measures as follows:

As Currently in the Regulation Book

5 AAC 21.320

Weekly Fishing Periods

(C) Upper Subdistrict:

(i) Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August 15, unless closed

by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; however, if the department estimate

that 30,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 1 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

(ii) Kenai and East Foreland Sections: from July 8 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only; from July 1 through August 15, when the Kasilof Section is open to commercial fishing with set gillnets and the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are closed to commercial fishing with set gillnets, commercial fishing with set gillnets may be allowed within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat., and is not subject to the time limitations in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3) and 5 AAC 21.360; from July 1 until the Kenai and East Foreland Sections commercial salmon set gillnet fishery open for the regular season, set gillnet gear may not exceed 29 meshes in depth and may not have a mesh size greater than four and three quarter inches during all fishing periods that are restricted to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;

(iii) Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections: in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, and separately in the Kasilof Section, the season will close August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order after July 31, if the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, or separately in the Kasilof Section; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular fishing periods only; for purposes of this sub- subparagraph, "fishing period" means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.;

New Proposal:

(C) Upper Subdistrict:

(i) Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August 15;

7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday; (more days and time can be added if warranted) (if the commissioner or the department deems necessary to restrict time or close the east side set net fishery, for any reason, equal percentage time restrictions must be administered to all other user groups); however, if the department estimates that 30,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 1 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

(ii) Kenai and East Foreland Sections: from June 25 through August 15, 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday; (more days and time can be added if warranted) (if the commissioner or the department deems necessary to restrict time or close the east side set net fishery, for any reason, equal percentage time restrictions must be administered to all other user groups); from July 1 through August 15, when the Kasilof Section is open to commercial fishing with set gill nets and the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are closed to commercial fishing with set gill nets, commercial fishing with set gill nets may be allowed within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat., and is not subject to the time limitations in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3) and 5 AAC 21.360; from July 1 until the Kenai and East Foreland Sections commercial salmon set gillnet fishery open for the regular season, set gillnet gear may not exceed 29 meshes in depth and may not have a mesh size greater than four and three quarter inches during all fishing periods that are restricted to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;

This means that on Monday and Thursday 12 hour openings will be fished by the ESSN fishery in some form or fashion (with full too minimum gear).

ESSN fishery (Kasilof, Kenai and East Foreland Sections) will be allowed to set gill net for salmon Monday and Thursday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm from June 25th to August 15th. These 2-12 hour fishing periods per week cannot be reduced in time without taking an equal percentage of time from all user groups.

Set net, drift net, dip net, inriver sport will all be affected.

For example;

If the commissioner takes a Monday or a Thursday away from ESSN (closed by emergency order);

This is taking 50% of the ESSN opportunity.

The commissioner shall restrict 50% of the time from all other user groups.

If the commissioner must close ESSN for the season, for any management or plan reason all user groups close for the season.

set net, drift net, dip net, inriver sport

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose of this proposal is for the ESSN's.(Commercial East Side Set Net) to have an opportunity to harvest salmon, with full too minimum gear (as written in the management plans), throughout the entire prescribed season.

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance.

The last few years, this has not been happening due to the many nuances of the different management plans.

In the year, 2023 the ESSN's opportunity to harvest throughout the season as prescribed evolved to a full season closure.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Every

(EF-F23-108)
