

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 21.XXX. New Section.

Create a Kasilof River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan as follows:

Establish a dedicated management plan for Kasilof Late-run kings

5 AAC 21.XXX Kasilof Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.

- (a) The purposes of this management plan are to ensure an adequate escapement of late-run king salmon into the Kasilof River system and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the late-run Kasilof River king salmon stocks primarily for sport and guided sport uses in order to provide the sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. The provisions of this management plan are in effect from July 1 through August 15.**
- (b) In the absence of an established escapement goal, the department shall manage the late run of Kasilof River king salmon in a precautionary manner.**
- (c) Regulations governing the sport fishery for late-run king salmon in the Kasilof River shall mirror those established by emergency order for the Kenai River as set out in 5 AAC 21.359 Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan and implemented by emergency order for the conservation of Late-Run Kenai king salmon.**
- (c) Conservation of Kasilof River king salmon shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River sockeye optimal escapement goal.**
- (d) The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area shall not be opened to commercial fishing by set or drift gillnet when the Kasilof sport fishery prohibits fishing for king salmon.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A significant Kasilof late-run king salmon population has been identified by recent stock assessments. This population historically supported a significant sport fishery but, like king salmon throughout Alaska, appears to be in severe decline. Significant harvest of Kasilof late-run kings also occurs in the east side set gillnet fishery according to genetic stock identification.

No management plan is dedicated to this stock and it is unclear whether current management incidental to other salmon management plans provides adequate protection.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

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