

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 56.140. Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements.

Limit sport fish guiding in the Kasilof River as follows:

Modify 5AAC 56.140 to read:

(2) From May 1 to August 31, guided sport fishing in Kasilof River waters downstream from Tustamena Lake is permitted only from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

An acceptable alternative to this proposal would be to limit guides to one boatload of clients per day, however without a basic program for industry tracking/accountability, this would be hard to enforce. I'd encourage the BOF to push the use of freshwater logbooks on the Kenai and Kasilof - not only for accountability for commercial operators, but for valuable in season data that logbooks provide local managers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased Kenai River restrictions have led to a drastic increase in pressure on the Kasilof River, especially by the guided fishing industry. Unfortunately, there are no limits on use. In the past, guides have been limited to one trip per day but that regulation was repealed several years ago. I'd like to see us return to one trip per day rule, however it is unenforceable now, due to the elimination of guide registration fees which funded the data collection and accountability (logbook) program. We need sideboards on guided fishing on the Kasilof River. 24/7 operation with an unlimited number of trips would be unheard of on any river this size, with this amount of pressure, in any other place. In light of the fact that there is no way to effectively enforce a trip limit, I propose to adopt hours of use. This will give the river, the fish, and recreational users a break from commercial operation on this small river.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Smith

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