

**PROPOSAL 175**

**5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan.**

Reduce the coho salmon limits in the Kenai River to two fish after August 30 as follows:

(3) coho salmon may be taken as follows:

(A) from July 1 through October 31, in the Middle and Upper Sections;

(B) from July 1 through November 30, in the Lower Section;

(C) from July 1 through **November 30,**[AUGUST 31,] the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is two fish;

(D) **Repealed** [FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, THE DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR COHO SALMON 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH IS THREE FISH.]

(c) If the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary for the in river sport or personal use fisheries, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen a season during which any or a combination of the following restrictions may be applied:

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current limit for coho salmon begins at two fish from July 1 through August 31. The limit then changes to three fish from September 1 through November 30.

I propose that the limit for coho salmon does not experience a change in the middle of the season but remains at two fish from July 1 through November 30. If there is need for this limit to be changed due to run size or conservation efforts the commissioner has the power to do so through emergency orders. This would make the coho salmon fishery consistent with the other salmon fisheries having a consistent season long limit that can be liberalized or restricted based on in-season run data.

In addition, we just don't need three coho salmon a day. Coho are generally larger fish and people are very happy in August with two fish. Further this would allow more fish to make it to their spawning beds.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eric L Loomis

(EF-F23-161)

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