

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 64.060. Kodiak Area Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the Kodiak Area Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan as follows:

Status quo regulation:

- (4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish, with no size limit;
- (5) the annual limit and harvest record specified in 5 AAC 64.022 does not apply.

Proposed Change:

(4) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish, with no size limit **except for May 15 -July 31 when bag and possession limit for king salmon is one fish, with no size limit;**

(5) **For summer fisheries (April 1-August 31):**

20 inches or longer: There is a combined annual catch limit of 5 King salmon 20 inches or longer. A king salmon of 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt water must be retained and becomes a part of the bag limit for of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a King salmon of 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak salt water king salmon FMP currently has daily-bag (2) and annual limits (NA) in the unguided and guided-recreational sector that are not in alignment with the Lower Cook Inlet’s King salmon FMP. Further the Kodiak salt water king salmon GHLL was exceeded in 2021 under status quo regulations. The daily-bag and annual limits should be adjusted to keep the fishery within its GHLL.

Lower Cook Inlet unguided and guided-recreational fisheries both have restricted limits for the 2023 season based on low expected returns of king salmon in the Upper Cook Inlet. East-side Cook Inlet set net fisheries are set to be closed for the 2023 season based on expected low king salmon returns. The burden of conservation for Upper Cook Inlet king salmon should be equitable in unguided and guided-recreational fisheries which have similar genetic mixing to protect the stock and to return it to a state where all effected fisheries may maintain access and viability.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Charter Association

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