

## ***Upper Cook Inlet Summer Fishery (5 proposals)***

### **PROPOSAL 1**

#### **5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan, as follows (*This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting*):

5 AAC 58.055 is amended to read:

...

**(g) if the Anchor River preseason forecast or inseason projection is less than the lower end of the sustainable escapement goal of 3,200 – 6,400 king salmon, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40.00' N. lat.) within a mile of shore shall be closed to the retention of king salmon from May 15 to July 15; if the Kenai River is closed as specified in 5 AAC 57.160, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point (59 40) shall be closed to the taking of king salmon from May 15 to July 15;**

**(h) if the Kenai River is closed to the taking of king salmon as specified in 5 AAC 21.359, the upper Cook Inlet salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point shall be closed to the taking of king salmon from June 20 through August 15.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Due to low productivity of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks and in combination with emergency order (EO) restrictions and closures to freshwater sport fisheries, the upper Cook Inlet summer salt water king salmon sport fishery has been restricted by EO in 12 of the last 15 years. This fishery has also been closed in several recent years by EO in July as specified in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*. Although management actions for the late-run are prescribed in the *Late-Run Plan*, currently no management actions for the early-run stocks are outlined in any plans for this fishery. By specifying the actions in a management plan, the public and the Alaska Board of Fisheries have the opportunity to provide input on the fishery structure.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-024)

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### **PROPOSAL 2**

#### **5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan* as follows (*This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting*):

Cook Inlet Saltwater king salmon fishery north of bluff point will remain open the entire month of May to harvest of 1 king per day and 2 per season, unless it is determined by actual sonar counts that escapement goals in the Kenai River and anchor river won't be met.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The preseason closure of the saltwater king salmon fishery north of Bluff point due to ADFG EO based on preseason forecasts, This fishery is 94% feeder kings and very few spawning kings are caught in this fishery in the

month of May. Closing this fishery months in advance based solely on a preseason forecast before the fish even arrive is overreach. wait until we know actual numbers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F23-092)  
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**PROPOSAL 3**

**5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the management plans for the Upper Cook Inlet Summer and Kenai River late-run king salmon fisheries as follows (*This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting*):

The late run king salmon sport fishery in Lower Cook Inlet along the beach from Anchor Point to Deep Creek will be open for harvest in July if the commercial set net fishery along the beach in Upper Cook Inlet is open.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The sport fishery using hooks for late run king salmon in Lower Cook Inlet being closed while the set net commercial fishery in upper cook inlet being open for king salmon harvest using nets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F23-095)  
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**PROPOSAL 4**

**5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan.**

Redefine the boundaries of the Upper Cook Inlet Area as follows (*This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting*):

Move the regulatory point for Cook Inlet king salmon management purposes from Bluff Point to Anchor Point. the line would a straight line from Anchor Point on the east to Sea Otter Point on the west side.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently ADFG uses Bluff Point as a management point for the salt water king salmon fishery, Bluff Point line does not run in a straight line and is more difficult to determine if you're in a legal or illegal zone, Anchor Point is a much better navigational point and has a radar marker on the coastline for reference, also a line across Cook Inlet from Anchor Point to Sea Otter Point on the west side is a much cleaner demarcation line separating Lower Cook Inlet from Upper Cook Inlet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Erickson (EF-F23-094)  
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**PROPOSAL 5**

**5 AAC 58.055. Upper Cook Inlet Summer Salt Water King Salmon Management Plan.**

Allow fishing from shore in the marine waters adjacent to Ninilchik River and Deep Creek year round as follows:

Open the beaches at Ninilchik River mouth and Deep Creek River to surf casting fishing all year round, with the only exclusion being no surf casting fishing within 200 meters/yards north/south of the rivers mouth entering Cook Inlet. Bag limits to be those that are stated for Cook Inlet salt waters. If a biologic science case can be made for the closure of incidental caught king salmon, close their take and publish any allowed take will be by Emergency Order's process of ADFG.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently the very family/elderly easy to use Ninilchik and Deep Creek beach areas are mostly closed to surf cast fishing for bottom fish species. Exceptions being the opening associated with Memorial Day Weekend and two subsequent weekend periods. Late in the summer restrictions are lifted against surf casting off the beaches of the two areas. Families have a ball in the surf casting fishery and young fishers are recruited via this fishery. For the elderly the surf casting fishery where the access can be negotiated fills days and occasionally freezers with fish and keeps them in the fishing pursuit years after owning/operating a boat is viable/safe. The roads, parking, beaches and outhouses on the Deep Creek and Ninilchik River mouth beaches are perfect for surf casting fishers and should be made available. No reasonable impact on any fish species will occur if the beaches are opened all fishing season.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Bithos

(EF-F23-009)

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