

Dear Chair Johnstone and members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Major indicators show a steep decline in Kenai River king salmon. Angler hours have dropped by 80 percent and harvest rates are 95 percent lower than a decade ago. We are barely, if at all, making minimum escapements for kings on the Kenai and many other rivers in Cook Inlet. Although king salmon declines are a statewide issue, it is an emergency situation on the Kenai.

Therefore, I support the following proposals (please check the proposals you support):

- # 188: Early-run spawning escapement goal of 5,300-9,000 king salmon
- # 207: Late-run spawning escapement goal of 20,000-40,000 king salmon
- # 209: Paired restrictions for sport, personal use (dipnet) and set-net fisheries
- # 11: Allows for incremental gear restrictions for set-net fisheries
- # 169: Kenai sockeye bag limit starts at 6, not 3
- # 161: Allow more sockeye to enter and spawn in the Kenai River
- # 112: Raise trigger to open Kasilof beaches to set-net fishing
- # 156: Mandate Tuesday window closure for Kasilof set-net fishing
- # 248: Coho bag limit of 3 when set-net fishery closes
- # 126: Prohibit commercial set-net fishermen from stacking (doubling) permits
- # 139: Expand time for commercial drift fleet to harvest Kenai and Kasilof sockeye

Deadlines:

Letters received prior to Jan. 17th will be included in Board packets prior to the meeting (preferable).

Letters received prior to Jan. 31st will be distributed manually at the meeting.

I consent to my contact information being included on printed copies of my comments.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. I appreciate your efforts to preserve this valuable fishery.

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