

PROPOSAL 86 – 5 AAC 67.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Bristol Bay. Implement a mail-in requirement for all king salmon harvest tickets in Bristol Bay sport fisheries, as follows:

This proposal would require anglers to record their harvest (and catch?) data on a department provided mail-in harvest ticket much like that for big game hunting in Alaska. The cards must be returned to ADF&G at the end of the Chinook salmon season in Bristol Bay.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To address concerns for chinook (king) salmon catch and harvest data and to make more efficient use of the current requirement to record Chinook salmon harvests in the Bristol Bay sport fisheries. Numerous Bristol Bay residents express concern and doubt regarding the timeliness and accuracy of current methods for assessing the sport harvest and catch of area Chinook salmon. The Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) results are delayed by up to two years and are not trusted by many. Guided angler data is sent to ADF&G weekly. Other than the SWHS there is no in-season data collected on non-guided anglers unless an expensive onsite angler survey is conducted. ADF&G cannot survey all waters every season.

Bristol Bay area sport anglers of all ages are already required to record their Chinook salmon harvests on their license or on a special report card.

It is expected the data from these cards could be used by ADF&G to refine their assessment of harvest (and catch?) of Bristol Bay Chinook salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-071)
