

**PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.**  
Review the optimum escapement goal (OEG) and inriver goals for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 21.360 states:

(b) The Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries shall be managed to

(1) meet an optimum escapement goal (OEG) range of 700,000 – 1,400,000 late-run sockeye salmon;

(2) achieve inriver goals as established by the board and measured at the Kenai River sonar counter located at river mile 19; and

(3) distribute the escapement of sockeye salmon evenly within the OEG range, in proportion to the size of the run.

(c) Based on preseason forecasts and inseason evaluations of the total Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon return during the fishing season, the run will be managed as follows:

(1) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 900,000 – 1,100,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19; and

...

(2) at run strengths of 2,300,000 – 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,000,000 – 1,200,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

...

(3) at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon,

(A) the department shall manage for an inriver goal range of 1,100,000 – 1,350,000 sockeye salmon past the sonar counter at river mile 19;

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The department submitted this proposal to provide the board an opportunity to review the current management goals for Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon and consider changes to align and simplify them. The OEG and inriver goals are currently out of alignment. The upper tier of the inriver goal (upper bound of 1,350,000) does not provide enough fish on the upper end to adequately distribute escapements throughout the OEG range and inriver goals. Managing for the current multiple goals (inriver goal and OEG) can be unnecessarily complicated inseason and confusing to user groups when one goal is met and the other is not.

If the inriver goals are aligned with the OEG, the board may also wish to consider simplifying the management plan by removing the OEG from regulation. The department currently manages for both OEG and inriver goals, and, if aligned, the two goals seem to be redundant.

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

(HQ-F16-150)

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