

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area. Modify language referencing fishing from guide boats on the Kenai River to include all guided fishing, as follows:

In the regulations referencing SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA GUIDING REGULATIONS under the heading KENAI RIVER change the language to; **FISHING GUIDES ON THE KENAI RIVER. [FISHING FROM GUIDE BOATS ON THE KENAI RIVER].**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent of the current regulation was to limit guiding to 6:00am to 6:00pm Tuesday–Saturday so that private anglers could enjoy some time on the river where they wouldn't have to compete with guide activity. During the predominant King fishery of the 1990s and early 2000s the guide industry built up to around 400 guides and the volume of activity, crowding and competition for fishing spots became too much for many private anglers and they left the King fishery figuring they would be satisfied with fishing for Sockeye and Silvers.

Since the collapse of the King fishery after around 2011, the guide industry shifted its efforts towards Sockeye and Silvers. This was an understandable business adjustment but it has had unintended consequences on private anglers once again. When this adjustment occurred the guides soon realized that they could fish 24/7 with their clients for Sockeye since it was a bank fishery and they were no longer restricted under the "Guides fishing from a boat" requirement.

Now it has reached the point where private fishermen are now being displaced from the Sockeye fishery just like they were from the King fishery. It is common practice now for many guides to homestead the best Sockeye fishing locations all day long and well into the evening hours shuttling groups of clients in and out throughout the day. People wanting to fish after work or with their families in the evening are having increased difficulty trying to find a suitable place to fish because of the increasing guided effort in the Sockeye fishery.

I fully appreciate the guide's needs to adapt to changes in the fisheries for their financial wellbeing, but I would ask that their time of guiding efforts be limited to 6am - 6pm so that private fishermen can have a time of the day where they don't have to compete with the guides and they can once again find the level of enjoyment they once knew in the Sockeye sport fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Wilson (HQ-F16-058)
