

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 58.060(a). Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan. Amend *Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery Management Plan* to specify that the plan applies to king salmon of Cook Inlet spawning origin, as follows:

- (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon **originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations**, in the salt waters of Lower Cook Inlet during the winter, which occurs from October 1 through March 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would amend the identified management plan's guiding principles by clarifying that the plan's goal addresses king salmon "*originating from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations*" and does not seek to manage non-local and non-Alaska king salmon stocks via the plan's restrictions on the Lower Cook Inlet Winter Salt Water King Salmon Sport Fishery.

The purpose and stated goal of the identified management plan are vague and indefinite. This proposal seeks to amend the plan's goal to clarify the management plan's guiding principles.

The stated purpose of the management plan under 5 AAC 58.060 is "*to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of slowing the growth in the sport harvest of king salmon in the salt waters of Lower Cook Inlet during the winter...*"

Without the proposed change, the management plan unnecessarily regulates a sport fishery whose harvest consists primarily of non-spawning "feeder" kings that do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations. In fact, the fishery's primary catch comprises visiting non-local, non-spawning, and non-Alaska salmon.

The present proposal is respectfully submitted in an effort to clarify the purpose and goal of the management plan in light of the best available scientific information. When the management plan was first implemented, the Board understandably adopted a precautionary approach, taking into account the then-existing uncertainties. In the ensuing years, those uncertainties have been greatly reduced through considerable scientific study and the contributions of the local and traditional knowledge (LTK) of this fishery's participants.

The sum total of this body of evidence confirms what Lower Cook Inlet recreational salmon troll anglers have been stating all along, and fishery science had long suggested – that the sport harvest of king salmon in the salt water of Lower Cook Inlet harvests primarily non-Cook Inlet "feeder" kings.

Alaska's policy for regulation and management of sustainable salmon fisheries is recognized and appreciated, as is the need for specific guiding principles and criteria. (5 AAC 39.222)

The sustainable salmon fisheries policy states that salmon management objectives should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of uses (5 AAC 39.222(c)(3)(A)). The policy also provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their

respective use (5 AAC 39.222(b)(4)(D) and (f)(4)). This idea of proportional burden sharing is also found in the mixed stock policy, which likewise provides that the burden of conservation should be shared among all fisheries in close proportion to their respective harvest on the stock of concern (5 AAC 39.220(b)).

Without the proposed amendment, the management plan will continue to state a purpose and goal that unnecessarily and improperly impose a punitive restriction on the recreational anglers seeking to fish for these feeder king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
(HQ-F16-050)
