

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Alaska Board of Fisheries

January 13, 2017

Proposal 281 – 5 AAC 18.395. Retention of king salmon taken in a commercial fishery.

Prohibit retention of king salmon over 28 inches or greater in length, as follows:

5 AAC 18.395. Retention of king salmon taken in a commercial fishery.

...

(c) In addition to the other provisions in this section, in the Kodiak Area, from June 1 through July 5, king salmon 28 inches or greater in length taken during the commercial salmon seine fishery may not be retained and must be immediately returned to the water. [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2016.]

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon returns in the Kodiak Management Area have been well below average in recent years and Karluk River king salmon are a stock of concern. King salmon are not targeted by fishermen using purse seine gear in the Kodiak Management Area, but king salmon are caught while targeting other salmon species. Release of king salmon 28 inches or greater in length by fishermen using purse seine gear will increase the likelihood of meeting king salmon escapement goals and increase the probability of rebuilding depressed king salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries.