

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Allow anglers fishing from non-motorized vessels to keep fishing in the Cook Inlet special harvest areas after harvesting a king salmon, as follows:

(iii) in the salt waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60_ 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59_ 40.00' N. lat.), and within one mile of shore, a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for any species of fish on that same day as specified in (e) **Non-motorized vessels are exempt from this provision.;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Board of Fish, Please consider an exemption, for non-motorized vessels, from the rule that states: "*(iii) in the salt waters south of the latitude of the mouth of the Ninilchik River (60_ 03.99' N. lat.) to the latitude of Bluff Point (59_ 40.00' N. lat.), and within one mile of shore, a person may not, after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, fish for any species of fish on that same day as specified in 5 AAC 58.055(e);*"

The reason is safety. There are a small but dedicated group of anglers who choose to fish Cook Inlet from more traditional non motorized methods such as drift boats and kayaks. The days are often limited by weather and the unique fishery off of Lower Cook Inlet where this regulation applies is one area where halibut can be targeted closer to shore. Allowing halibut harvest after a king has been retained allows for maximum opportunities to fish the tides and maximizes safety for those wishing to participate in a more economical and environmentally friendly methods.

The terrain and geography of the area often create calmer waters near shore while areas further offshore have unfishable waters. The fast currents of Cook Inlet on many days restricts the number of hours that are fishable. Both waves and current action are significantly reduced near the shorelines allowing for a safer fishery for non-motorized vessels.

My personal motivation is to expose my 11 year old son further to kayak angling. Having him for only half of the time, my opportunities when combined with weather often limit the opportunity to fish. This requested rule change would allow for greater and safer participation in the world of non-motorized sport angling.

The impact to the resources would be negligible. The limits would remain the same. If a king is caught first, switching over to halibut gear minimizes the likelihood of a king being hooked. Though effort from non-motorized platforms could increase, by their nature, the catch per unit effort off of non-motorized platforms are likely far below those off of powered vessels.

The current number of non-motorized anglers I would estimate to be less than 30 that currently utilize this area via non-motorized means. Though growing, it will continue to be a very tiny fraction of the total effort in the area for the foreseeable future.

PROPOSED BY: Ryuichi Rudy Tsukada (EF-F16-089)
