

Submitted by: Kenai River Professional Guides Association

Opposition to Proposals #182 & 185

Currently, fishing from a guided vessel downstream from Slilak Lake is limited to these hours through July 31.

These proposals extend this closure to any fishing which would eliminate guided sockeye trips from the bank, and silver and trout fishing from a vessel.

KRPGA is opposed to these proposals for the reasons including:

These proposals would eliminate up to an additional 84 hours of guide fishing opportunity per week. This create an extreme financial challenge to the guide industry and related local economy.

During times of low abundance of king salmon, fishing for other species provides alternative opportunities for sport fish anglers. These opportunities also help ameliorate the devastating impact of king closures on the guide industry.

There is no biological justification for this proposal.

Reducing the guide fishing hours will create undesirable consequences including increased crowding and related social issues, and increased numbers of guides.