

**PROPOSAL 36**

**5 AAC 21.xxx. New section.**

Prohibit the retention of king salmon over 28” in length in the commercial purse seine fishery in the Southern District, as follows:

Closing the Southern District to retention of Chinook salmon over 28” in length by commercial purse seine permit holders,

5 AAC 21.392 Landing of king salmon

**a. Unless otherwise specified, king salmon over 28” in length may not be retained by purse seine permit holders in the Southern District. King salmon which are taken must be returned to the water without injury.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal would prohibit the retention and sale of king salmon over 28” in length by commercial purse seiner permit holders fishing within the Southern District Reasons include:

- (1) To prevent commercial purse seiners from targeting King Salmon and the intentional interception of returning hatchery and feeder kings in Kachemak Bay;
- (2) To insure King Salmon stocks within Kachemak Bay are managed and available for recreational fisherman;
- (3) Due to the high value of King Salmon, it has been observed in recent years that multiple commercial purse seiners are targeting King Salmon within Kachemak Bay. Fish tickets and mandatory reporting do not necessarily reflect the accuracy of the landings.
- (4) We know the vast majority of King Salmon within Kachemak Bay originate from hatchery stocks. The hatcheries are funded with sportfish dollars acquired from Dingell-Johnson Act funds, sale of sportfish licenses, etc. These salmon were paid for by recreational fishermen for the purpose of being harvested by recreational fishermen. Many areas throughout the State of Alaska, Kachemak Bay being one exception, prohibit the retention and sale of King Salmon by commercial purse seiners. Note the following regulations:
  - a. 5 AAC 21.376
  - b. 5 AAC 18.395
  - c. Kodiak Commercial Salmon Fishery Announcement #01 For Emergency Order #4-FS-K-01-18 stating ‘Kodiak Area (including the Mainland District) beginning noon Saturday, June 9, until further notice, Chinook (king) salmon 28 inches or greater in length may not be retained by purse seine gear in the commercial fishery and must be returned to the water unharmed.’
  - d. Southeast Alaska purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries chinook salmon management restrictions: Summary of intended management actions for commercial net fisheries in 2018, which states ‘Other than within Terminal Harvest Areas that have returns of hatchery produced Chinook salmon, the purse seine fishery will be prohibited from retaining Chinook salmon over 28" in length for the 2018 season.’

**PROPOSED BY:** Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen/Todd Jacobson (HQ-F19-026)

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