

**Sport (4 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 45**

**5 AAC 64.005. Description of the Kodiak Area.**

Amend the boundaries of the Kodiak Road Zone salt waters, as follows:

5 AAC 64.005 is amended to read:

(1) Kodiak Road Zone: all fresh waters of Kodiak Island [AND ALL SALT WATERS WITHIN ONE MILE OF KODIAK AND SPRUCE ISLANDS] that are east of a line extending south from Crag Point on the west side of Anton Larsen Bay to the westernmost point of Saltery Cove, including the waters of Woody **and** Long [AND SPRUCE] islands; **all salt waters inside or landward of the following lines:**

- a) **Anton Larsen Bay south and east of a line from Crag Point (57° 51.519'N, 152° 47.152'W) to Kizhuyak Point (57° 55.042'N, 152° 38.134'W)**
- b) **From the outermost points of Shakmanof Cove (57° 55.309'N, 152° 36.964'W to 57° 55.552'N, 152° 35.358'W)**
- c) **From the easternmost point of Shakmanof Cove (57° 55.552'N, 152° 35.358'W) to Otmeloi Point (57° 54.562'N, 152° 30.948'W)**
- d) **From Course Point near Split Rock (57° 53.534'N, 152° 27.944'W) to Termination Point (57° 51.373'N, 152° 24.107'W)**
- e) **Termination Point (57° 51.373'N, 152° 24.107'W) to Miller Point (57° 50.243'N, 152° 21.159'W)**
- f) **Miller Point (57° 50.243'N, 152° 21.159'W) to Spruce Cape (57° 49.554'N, 152° 19.615'W)**
- g) **Spruce Cape (57° 49.554'N, 152° 19.615'W) to the northern tip of Woody Island (57° 47.822'N, 152° 19.611'W)**
- h) **The southern tip of Woody Island (57° 45.629'N, 152° 21.178'W) to Cliff Point (57° 43.512'N, 152° 26.622'W)**
- i) **Cliff Point (57° 43.512'N, 152° 26.622'W) to Broad Point (57° 41.271'N, 152° 23.769'W)**
- j) **Broad Point (57° 41.271'N, 152° 23.769'W) to the northern tip of Chiniak Island (57° 37.705'N, 152° 9.043'W)**
- k) **The northern tip of Chiniak Island (57° 37.705'N, 152° 9.043'W) to Cape Greville (57° 35.308'N, 152° 9.367'W)**
- l) **Cape Greville (57° 35.308'N, 152° 9.367'W) to the eastern tip of Narrow Cape (57° 25.920'N, 152° 19.112'W)**
- m) **The southern most part of Narrow Cape (57° 25.280'N, 152° 20.979'W) to Pasagshak Point (57° 25.269'N, 152° 28.998'W)**
- n) **North and east of a line from the outermost points of Pasagshak Bay (57° 25.269'N, 152° 28.998'W to 57° 25.984'N, 152° 31.129'W)**
- o) **From the westernmost point of Pasagshak Bay (57° 25.984'N, 152° 31.129'W) to Shark Point (57° 26.768'N, 152° 35.182'W)**
- p) **From Shark Point (57° 26.768'N, 152° 35.182'W) to the westernmost point of Portage Bay (57° 27.975'N, 152° 41.144'W)**
- q) **From the westernmost point of Portage Bay (57° 27.975'N, 152° 41.144'W) to the westernmost point of Saltery Cove (57° 29.620'N, 152° 48.159'W)**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations aimed at conserving Kodiak Road Zone (KRZ) salmon runs have a saltwater boundary that extends one mile from the shoreline of the KRZ. These regulations are aimed at conserving local salmon runs and in particular coho salmon runs, while providing opportunity for anglers to have more liberal bag limits fishing offshore and targeting feeding coho salmon found in larger aggregations than the relatively small coho salmon runs of the KRZ. While the current regulations offer a buffer or measure of protection for coho salmon runs of the KRZ, the boundary line is difficult to determine for both anglers and for enforcement purposes due to the constantly changing shoreline of the KRZ as well as the arbitrary nature of a one mile boundary. This proposal would change the KRZ saltwater boundary to use local landmarks to define boundary lines that are easily observable by anglers while fishing but would allow for a sufficient area of protection for all KRZ salmon runs for conservation purposes. In the areas of the KRZ that are most prone to harvest of local stocks, such as bays and other enclosed areas, it would restrict more area than the current boundary but in areas that are not near salmon streams it would allow increased opportunity to fish schooling aggregations of coho salmon in nearshore areas of the KRZ that are not near enough to local KRZ salmon runs to be of concern for conservation of these runs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-143)  
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#### **PROPOSAL 46**

#### **5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.**

Establish a sport fishing season for king salmon in the Dog Salmon River, as follows:

5 AAC 64.022 is amended to read:

(b)(1) in addition to the waters specified in 5 AAC 64.051, the following waters are closed to sport fishing for salmon, as follows:

(E) the **Dog Salmon River (including Frazer Lake)**, Ayakulik and Karluk River drainages are closed to sport fishing for king salmon from July 26 – December 31;

[ (F) THE DOG SALMON RIVER DRAINAGE (INCLUDING FRAZER LAKE) IS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31;]

**(10) in the Dog Salmon River (including Frazer Lake); king salmon may not be retained or possessed;**

5 AAC 64.030(e) is added:

**(e) In the Dog Salmon River drainage (including Frazer Lake) the use of bait is prohibited from January 1-July 25;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** King salmon were stocked in the Dog Salmon River drainage from 1966 through 1970. Success of this stocking effort has been varied and overall returns have been low: escapements have ranged from fewer than 40 fish to nearly 800 fish since monitoring began in 1983. In the 1980's, regulations were adopted to close the river to sport fishing for king salmon in order to protect returning king salmon in hopes of establishing a spawning population before a fishery was developed. Stocking has not occurred for more than 40 years and the run is currently considered a wild stock. This proposal will remove sport fishing

restrictions on the Dog Salmon River drainage and allow anglers to catch king salmon where they could not previously, while still managing the sport fishery conservatively. Commercial and subsistence fisheries in the area annually harvest king salmon, of which the Dog Salmon River drainage stock is the only king salmon run in proximity to the fisheries, and have been doing so since returns began to the drainage. A limited sport fishery will provide angler opportunity in an area where little exists for king salmon, while also having a limited impact on Dog Salmon River king salmon production.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-142)  
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**PROPOSAL 47**

**5 AAC 64.051. Waters closed to sportfishing in the Kodiak Area.**

Modify the area closed to sport fishing in the Monashka Creek drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 64.051 is amended to read:

In addition to those waters closed as specified in 5 AAC 64.022(b), the following waters are closed to all sport fishing in the Kodiak Area, as follows:

- (1) from January 1 – December 31, that portion of the [MONASHKA CREEK DRAINAGE AND] Pillar Creek drainage [S] upstream from the Monashka Highway;
- (5) from January 1 – December 31, that portion of the Monashka Creek drainage upstream of the ADF&G regulatory markers approximately 50 yards upstream of the Monashka Highway;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Monashka Creek drainage was previously used as a brood source for the Kodiak Road Zone king salmon stocking project. King salmon stocking of this drainage has been discontinued due to poor returns in Monashka Creek and development of alternate brood sources for the project. Monashka Creek has more recently been stocked with coho salmon and returns of anadromous coho salmon have been excellent, to the point that Monashka Creek is one of the most popular coho salmon fisheries in the Kodiak Road Zone. Closure of the drainage to sport fishing above the Monashka Highway served to protect king salmon brood stock for use in annual egg-takes. This proposal would create a regulatory closure approximately 50 yds above the Monashka Highway but would allow anglers access to virtually all of the fishable waters of Monashka Creek. It will also reduce the illegal take of coho salmon from closed waters and spread out fishing effort in the very small intertidal waters of Monashka Creek below the Monashka Highway.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-141)  
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**PROPOSAL 48**

**5 AAC 28.466. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan; and 5 AAC 64.XXX. New section.**

Establish a management plan for the Kodiak Area rockfish sport fishery and a guideline harvest range for the Kodiak Area commercial rockfish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 64.XXX is added:

**Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan. (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to meet the Board of Fisheries' goal of stabilizing the sport harvest of black rockfish in the waters of the Kodiak Area particularly in the areas of Chiniak and Marmot bays. Black rockfish will be managed for harvest levels within the established guideline harvest range until a time when survey abundance estimates suggest an increase in harvest is appropriate. In recognition that commercial and sport users harvest the same populations of black rockfish, a management plan is also in place for commercial fisheries to maintain harvest within the guideline harvest range specified in 5 AAC 28.466(h).**

**(b) In the Kodiak Area rockfish sport fishery,**

**(1) the guideline harvest range is 0 - 21,500 black rockfish;**

**(2) the sport harvest will be estimated annually by the department using saltwater guide logbooks, statewide harvest survey data, and dockside sampling data;**

**(3) the bag and possession limit for rockfish is five fish, only two of which may be nonpelagic and only one of which may be a yelloweye except;**

**(A) in the waters of Chiniak Bay and Marmot Bay, west of a line from Cape Chiniak to Pillar Cape and east of a line from Head Point on Afognak Island (57° 59.67' N. lat., 152° 46.75' W. long.) to Dolphin Point (57° 59.15' N. lat., 152° 43.40' W. long.) on Whale Island and from Bird Point (57° 55.30' N. lat., 152° 47.50' W. long.) on Whale Island to Inner Point (57° 54.05' N. lat., 152° 47.75' W. long.) on Kodiak Island;**

**(i) the bag limit for rockfish is three fish per day and six in possession, of which only two fish per day and four in possession may be nonpelagic rockfish, and only one fish per day and two in possession may be yelloweye rockfish; no size limit;**

**(ii) charter vessel operators and crewmembers may not retain rockfish while clients are on board the vessel.**

**(c) If the harvest increases and it is anticipated that the upper bound of the guideline harvest range will be exceeded or has been exceeded, the commissioner may implement restrictions that may be necessary to restrict the increase of harvest in the sport fishery. When the commissioner finds that restrictions are necessary, the commissioner will adopt one or more of the following restrictions:**

**(1) implement an annual limit for nonresidents for rockfish;**

**(2) reduce nonresident bag and possession limit for rockfish;**

**(3) reduce the rockfish bag limit by statistical area according to the department's groundfish statistical chart;**

**(4) implement a rockfish season; and/or**

**(5) reduce the resident bag and possession limit for rockfish.**

5 AAC 28.466(h) is added:

**(h) the annual Kodiak Area black rockfish guideline harvest range is 0 - 120,000 pounds.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal seeks to maintain current harvest levels in sport and commercial black rockfish fisheries in the Kodiak Area and curtail further growth in the sport fishery by establishing guideline harvest ranges (GHRs). Emphasis will be on managing harvest of black rockfish because they are the primary species targeted by both user groups. The department's current estimates of Kodiak Area black rockfish abundance indicate that capping total removals at current harvest levels is consistent with previous

efforts by the board to implement a conservative approach to management of rockfish fisheries. Sport and Commercial Fisheries divisions have met annually to assess trends in black rockfish abundance and harvest for the Kodiak Area; however, a specifically designed set of management options is needed given limitations and uncertainty associated with currently available data. The proposed management plan for the sport fishery would establish a GHR and define management measures that may be utilized by the department to constrain harvest below the upper bound of the GHR.

Recent sport harvest estimates for rockfish have shown a steadily increasing trend based on guided saltwater logbook and the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) data. Black rockfish are the primary species taken by sport harvesters. In 2011, the board reduced the Kodiak Area rockfish bag limit from 10 fish to 5 fish per day to attempt to curtail growth in the fishery in recognition that rockfish generally are a long lived, slow growing species that is vulnerable to overharvest. After an initial harvest reduction in the following season, SWHS estimates of rockfish harvest continued to increase from approximately 15,500 fish in 2011 to a peak of approximately 26,500 fish in 2016. In response to the continued increasing harvest trend, the board further reduced the bag limit for rockfish to 3 rockfish per day in Chiniak and Marmot bays prior to the 2017 season. Harvest decreased to approximately 23,400 fish in 2017; however, additional management tools are needed to reduce harvests to sustainable levels.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-140)  
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