

PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Add a 24-hour no fishing window on Tuesday in the Kasilof Section through July 7 and adopt mandatory no fishing windows in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area after July 7, as follows:

Provide adequate protection of Kasilof king escapement by increased use of no-fishing windows in the Kasilof area set gillnet fishery:

- a. Through July 7, bolster windows protection in Kasilof salmon management plan adding a fixed 24 hr. on Tuesday (in addition to the current 36 hour window at the end of the week).
- b. After July 7, adopt mandatory windows for the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area the same as those found in the Kenai River late-run sockeye management plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current plans do not provide adequate protection for Kasilof late-run kings particularly during years of large Kasilof sockeye returns. Precautionary king protection measures are necessary in the absence of escapement monitoring and goals for the Kasilof River.

Recent research and genetic analysis of east side set net harvest has shown that the Kasilof River supports a substantial population of late-run king salmon. King populations throughout UCI are suffering from a period of record low returns. Current management fails to protect escapement of Kasilof late-run kings because run strength is not assessed and escapement goals have not been identified.

After July 7 the “windows” provisions of the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan apply to the Kasilof section and provide significant protection to both Kenai and Kasilof kings. However, windows protections are reduced between June 25 and July 7 when the set net fishery in the Kasilof section is regulated by the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. After July 7, Kenai plan windows do not currently apply to the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area which is being fished intensively in recent years. Harvest of Kasilof kings in the KRSHA counteracts benefits of district-wide limitations on set net fishing time.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F16-072)
