

PROPOSAL 171 – 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.
Remove the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Kasilof Section from “paired” restrictions in the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Amend (h) to include the Kasilof Section within the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan and KRSHA.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The inability of the Department to manage and distribute escapements evenly within the Kasilof river sockeye salmon escapement goal. The Kasilof Section should not be coupled to 21.359 plan as the incidental harvest of Kenai bound late-run king salmon is minimal. The genetic harvest data in the Kasilof Section supports the minimal harvest levels per opening, per net CPUE in-season, by CPUE on age composition stratified in July and before July 8th, and after July 31.

268 - 283 permits operate in the Kasilof Section and the Kenai Section 164 permits. The net ratio is 1.71:1 and harvest ratio is 1:7 with the CPUE per net harvest levels in July. For example in July when comparing both Kasilof Section to Kenai Section the Kasilof Section harvests less than one-fourth that of Kenai Section average per opening: 67 vs. 309. In addition, significant numbers of 1.1 (12 – 14 inches in length) male king salmon within the Kasilof Section harvest that are not counted by sonar. During the entire opened fishing season from June 22nd through August 10th 2015 fishing with 28 days, the average per net harvest of Kenai river late-run king salmon was only 1.4 kings per net per entire “season” with 1.1 jacks adjusted for.

In all likelihood, the Kasilof Section harvest level on Kenai late-run king salmon for ages 1.2 or above is comparable or less than the Lower Sport Marine king salmon fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Goodman (HQ-F16-098)
