

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area. Eliminate harvest limit for king salmon harvested in Lower Cook Inlet marine fishery south of Anchor Point Light, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the following are the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and special provisions for finfish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area: (1) king salmon: may be taken from January 1 - December 31; bag and possession limit of two fish; no size limit; an annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, **except the “annual harvest limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length” requirement shall not apply to Alaska residents for king salmon harvested in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational troll king salmon fishery south of Anchor Point Light (59°46.14’ N. lat.),**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the current regulations’ harvest limit of five king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, for Alaska residents in the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery south of Anchor Point Light.

The Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery harvests primarily “feeder” king salmon which do not originate from Cook Inlet spawning aggregations.

As mounting scientific data confirms, the Lower Cook Inlet recreational salt water troll fishery does not pose a threat to conservation of returning Cook Inlet stocks-of-concern. Application of the 5 king salmon seasonal harvest limit to Alaska residents in this recreational salt water troll fishery is neither a very effective nor reliable means for advancing sustainable management of Cook Inlet king salmon stocks of concern.

In addition to not providing any measurable benefit, the 5 king salmon seasonal harvest limit is unduly restrictive and disproportionately burdensome on Alaska residents’ opportunity to catch non-local “feeder” king salmon for consumption.

The 5 king salmon harvest limit deprives Alaska residents of sport fishing opportunities during months when non-Cook Inlet “feeder” king salmon are abundant and weather patterns are most favorable and less hazardous.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Zimmerman, spokesman for Cook Inlet Recreational Fishermen
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