

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Regulation Proposal Form 2023-2024

Proposals must be received Tuesday, April 11, 2023

PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526 or FAX (907) 465-6094 or online at:

<https://arcg.is/1LDOCO0>

BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS

☐ Subsistence

☐ Personal Use

☒ Sport

☐ Commercial

***Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to?**

☒ Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish ☐ Prince William Sound Finfish and Shellfish ☐ All Other Shellfish Statewide

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC ____47.055____

***2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

We propose a two fish annual sport king salmon limit for non-residents prior to July 1 and one fish thereafter.

***3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)**

For most of the past 20+ years of king salmon fisheries management in Southeast Alaska, the annual sport limit for nonresidents prior to July 1 has been three king salmon. There have been some, but few, variations to that limit. During the same 20+ year period, the commercial troll and resident sport fisheries have been restricted by US-Canada Treaty reductions and by severe local stock of concern measures. Since residents and nonresidents share one sport quota, the biggest threat to the stable resident sport king salmon fishery is the unlimited unrestricted nonresident king salmon fishery.

More than 75 percent of the sport harvest was taken by nonresidents in 2023, and the fishery exceeded its quota by 17,000 fish. The non-resident fishing power in outside waters is now capable of catching the entire sport quota before the end of June. Residents in inside waters can't begin fishing until mid-June or even July because of stock of concern restrictions on local runs. A review of the allocation criteria argues for residents, as the troll and resident sport fisheries are long-standing and stable, while the non-resident sport fishery has no participation limit and, in 2023, no in-season management. The resident food fishery and the commercial troll fishery both have history, personal use for sustenance, and local economic importance on their side.

In 2023, the unmanaged nonresident sport fishery, primarily in outside waters, overharvested the sport quota by 17,000 fish. The constitutional resident priority for king salmon was violated. It is time that the nonresident sport fishery join in conservation and respect for an iconic Alaskan fish and a most valuable but declining coastwide resource.

King salmon today are far more valued than they were 20 or 30 years ago when abundance was varying within degrees of normalcy. The troll price of king salmon in 2003 was \$1.35 per pound, while in the past two or three years the winter troll caught chinook price sometimes exceeded \$10 per pound to the fisherman. For a resident to purchase fresh king salmon in January 2024 the market price in Juneau has exceeded \$23/lb. During the same past 20 years, the price per pound to fishermen of salmon species other than king salmon has not increased beyond normal inflation, if at all. It is clear that king salmon are highly treasured by residents of Alaska.

Charter boats today employ better technology (better communication, better fish finders, high resolution GPS mapping software) increasing the CPUE of all anglers aboard. Charter boats are generally larger and more seaworthy, decreasing the number of days that they are unable to fish. The charter season has gotten longer, in particular starting earlier in the season- when troll and inside waters sport opportunity has been severely limited due to concerns for local wild stocks. The resident sport fishery is stable. The commercial troll fishery is stable. The non-resident sport fishery can be made stable by an annual limit reduction to two king salmon.

This action is expected to result in a full normal season for all users. The value to the non-resident or guided sport sector is not expected to be diminished as the industry will likely realize the same income from two king salmon as they do now from three.

There are no guarantees in fishing, and since a three fish annual king salmon limit has been shown to be destructive to quota management, the reduction to two fish is fully warranted,

4. Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

No

***Submitted By:** Territorial Sportsmen Inc. and Alaska Trollers Association

Individual or Group

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