

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Allow sport fishing from a guided nonmotorized vessel on Mondays during May – July as follows:

[(3) (A) ON ANY MONDAY IN MAY, JUNE, AND JULY, EXCEPT MEMORIAL DAY, IN THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE OUTLET OF SKILAK LAKE, EXCEPT THAT **UNGUIDED** SPORT FISHING FROM A NONMOTORIZED VESSEL IS ALLOWED ON MONDAYS IN MAY, JUNE, AND JULY AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 21.359(C)(3); FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, "NONMOTORIZED VESSEL" IS A VESSEL THAT DOES NOT HAVE A MOTOR ON BOARD;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Drift only Mondays were instituted for the king salmon fishery. With recent closures of the king salmon fishery various outfitters have switched to offering trout fishing trips, and the river has become extremely crowded and noisy. Anglers looking for a quiet time on the river while fishing for trout simply cannot find them. As a sport fishing guide, I want to offer my clients a quiet wilderness experience and I love the idea of drift only Mondays however I cannot currently offer that experience to my clients.

Alternatives: Drift only days for guides would reduce some of the traffic on the river but be confusing for both guides and the public.

Creating a drift only section on the middle river, while prudent, would likely face significant opposition.

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