

PROPOSAL 170

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 backtrolling in a section of the Kenai River as follows:

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.

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(G) **Repealed** [FROM JULY 1 - JULY 31, IN THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY RIVER MILE 11 UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY RIVER MILE 12, A PERSON MAY NOT SPORT FISH FOR ANY SPECIES OF FISH FROM A VESSEL THAT IS MAKING UPSTREAM PROGRESS RELATIVE TO THE WATER WITH THE AID OF A MOTOR]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Between river mile 11 and 12 on the lower Kenai River is a special regulation region that restricts the method of fishing from a vessel. Specifically, from July 1-July 31 an angler cannot fish from a vessel that is making upstream progress relative to the water with the aid of a motor. In laymen’s this means no one can backtroll in this area. In recent years because of this regulation this area has had little to no use as anglers very rarely fish the allowed method of dragging or floating. The result of this is a pseudo-closed region of the river. Further, with the king salmon fishery being so heavily restricted or closed, a special regulation on fishing styles specific to king salmon fishing is no longer applicable.

When this regulation was put into place it was done solely for social reasons to help prevent potential conflict between fishing user groups. It was never intended for this part of the river to essentially turn into a month-long closure. In addition, this regulation has no scientific or conservation-based reasoning to support it.

Allowing this regulation to remain in effect sets a dangerous precedent for other user groups who could want to divide the river up for their preferred method of fishing. It would inadvertently restrict regions of the river and place a higher priority of one person’s fishing method over another’s. As outdoor men and women we should be able to communicate and work together on this one river mile as we must on all the remaining 81 river miles to the outlet of Kenai Lake.

I propose that this entire regulation is repealed, allowing anglers to work together and fish it as they do the remainder of the river.

PROPOSED BY: Eric L Loomis (EF-F23-106)
