

Kenai, Kasilof, and Russian Rivers (24 proposals)

PROPOSAL 165

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 in the Kenai River with only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure from January – July as follows:

Repeal:

[(1) SPORT FISHING GEAR RESTRICTIONS:

(A) FROM JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, IN THE KENAI RIVER, AND FROM JULY 1 - JULY 31, IN THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 300 YARDS DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF SLIKOK CREEK UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE OUTLET OF SKILAK LAKE, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED;

(B) FROM JULY 1 - JULY 31, IN THE KENAI RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 300 YARDS DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF SLIKOK CREEK, ONLY ONE SINGLE HOOK MAY BE USED;

(C) FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, IN THE KENAI RIVER FROM THE MOUTH OF THE UPPER KILLEY RIVER UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE OUTLET OF SKILAK LAKE, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED;

(D) FROM DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, IN THE KENAI RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED AT THE OUTLET OF SKILAK LAKE, ONLY UNBAITED, ARTIFICIAL LURES MAY BE USED;

(E) FROM MAY 1 - JULY 31, IN THE PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS DOWNSTREAM OF THE MOUTH OF THE MOOSE RIVER, UPSTREAM TO ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS UPSTREAM OF THE MOUTH OF THE MOOSE RIVER, AND THE MOOSE RIVER FROM ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KENAI RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE UPSTREAM EDGE OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL FLY MAY BE USED;

(F) FROM MAY 1 - JULY 31, IN THE FOLLOWING WATERS ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL FLY MAY BE USED:

(I) THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 300 YARDS DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF

SLIKOK CREEK, UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 300 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF SLIKOK CREEK;

(II) THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF FUNNY RIVER, UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 200 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE FUNNY RIVER;

(G) FROM MAY 1 - JULY 31, THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER, UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL FLY MAY BE USED;

(H) REPEALED 5/18/2014;

(I) REPEALED 6/8/2017;

(J) REPEALED 6/8/2017;

(K) FROM NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31 IN THE KENAI RIVER FROM BINGS LANDING UPSTREAM TO THE MOUTH OF THE UPPER KILLEY RIVER, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED;

(L) IN ALL TRIBUTARIES OF THE LOWER SECTION, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE, WITH A GAP BETWEEN THE POINT AND SHANK OF THREE-EIGHTHS INCH OR LESS, MAY BE USED;]

Replace with:

In flowing waters of the Kenai River from it's mouth to Bings Landing only one unbaited single hook artificial lure may be used from January 1 to July 31, except by emergency order.

In flowing waters of the Kenai River from Bings Landing, upstream to Skilak Lake only one unbaited single hook artificial lure may be used year round. except two artificial flies may be used provided the combined hook gap is less than 1/2 inch.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulations on the Lower Kenai River are unnecessarily complicated and thus are often misinterpreted or ignored. I propose making them easy to understand, simple and the best for the resource and anglers.

Recently the entire Kenai River has been closed to the use of bait due to poor king salmon returns, my proposal closes fishing for king salmon with bait entirely except by emergency order. It would allow limited fishing for coho salmon with bait in a bulk of the lower river.

The “middle river” section, which has the most resident fish (rainbow trout and dolly varden), would be closed to bait entirely, to protect resident species. This proposal would close a very small chunk of water to bait fishing when it otherwise would be open, however this is warranted because of the very poor catch and release mortality of trophy rainbow trout and dolly varden caught on bait, the river above Bings Landing has the highest concentration of these fish and their protection coupled with the fact that bait is completely unnecessary to successfully target coho salmon should be considered.

“Fly fishing only” portions of the lower river would be eliminated. These are often areas where sockeye salmon are targeted specifically. Flies with small hook gaps being the most productive gear for successfully targeting sockeye, and therefore they will be used anyway. While the original intent of the regulation was to limit snagging of sockeye, snagging fish is easier with fly fishing only gear than any single hook lure, so this is not accomplished anyway.

By allowing small trout fishing hooks to be used in tandem the middle Kenai River will become in line with every other western state. The hook gap restriction would be such that only very small flies may be used when fishing with two hooks, virtually eliminating the practice all but a very small subset of fly fishermen who prefer to use insect imitations.

Alternatives:

-The status quo will continue to make it’s very easy for otherwise law abiding anglers to break the law.

-Making the entire river one single hook artificial lure, would cause harm to those who like to fish bait for coho salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick P McCormick (EF-F23-078)

PROPOSAL 166

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.

Expand time and area waters of the Kenai River are limited to only one unbaited, single- hook, artificial lure and redefine “artificial fly” as follows:

Section 5 AAC 57.121 - Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area

...

(F) from May 1 - July 31, in the following waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly may be used:

...

- (iii) **that portion of the Kenai River from the lower Swan Sanctuary Markers at approximately river mile 47, downstream to ADF&G Marker located approximately 100 yards downstream of the Moose River;**

[(G) FROM MAY 1 - JULY 31, THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER, UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL FLY MAY BE USED;]

For the purpose of this regulation the definition of an “artificial fly” is defined below;

Artificial Fly – means a fly which is constructed by common methods known as fly tying, including a dry fly, wet fly, and nymph, which is free of bait as defined below. Materials and chemicals designed and produced primarily to cause flies to float or sink may be used on artificial flies.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently sportfishing regulations allow for a myriad of fishing methods in the Lower Kenai River downstream of Skilak Lake. During this time of continued low abundance of Kenai River Chinook salmon, the increased popularity, and targeting of, resident species in June and July has been exponential. Many of the anglers participating in the resident species fishery execute the fishery in a manner that is not consistent with catch and release ethics, targeting and exploiting the Resident Species in active spawning areas with methods that disrupt spawning behavior. The backtrolling or casting of “plug” style lures elicits a response from both male and female spawning Rainbow Trout as they protect their respective redd from intruders. This results in anglers repeatedly removing spawning fish from spawning areas and does not promote natural, nor successful spawning activity.

If this regulation is not adopted and the exploitation of spawning Resident Species is allowed to continue the results could be catastrophic to the longevity of Kenai River Rainbow Trout.

Other considerations were:

- A) Prohibiting “backtrolling” style fishing methods. In this situation the definition of “backtrolling” is insufficient in that “the slowed downstream progress of a vessel” while fly fishing or float fishing is also common practice.
- B) Close the Kenai River from Skilak Lake (or the Lower Swan Signs at mile 47) to the Moose River confluence to all fishing from May 1 – July 1 in order to protect spawning Resident Species. This would create an additional burden and decreased opportunity for early run sockeye anglers, local riverfront property owners, guided and nonguided anglers.

PROPOSED BY: Josh Hayes

(HQ-F23-047)

PROPOSAL 167

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.

Expand time and area in waters of the Kenai River that are limited to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure as follows:

Section 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.

...

(K) from **January** (NOVEMBER) 1 - December 31 in the Kenai River from **an ADF&G regulatory marker 100 yards below the Moose River Confluence** [BINGS LANDING] upstream to **ADF&G regulatory markers at the Outlet of Skilak Lake** [THE MOUTH OF THE UPPER KILLEY RIVER], only one unbaited, single- hook, artificial lure may be used;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The increased popularity in bait fishing the Kenai River downstream of Skilak Lake is leading to increased catch and release mortality rates on staging Coho Salmon and Resident Species such as Rainbow Trout. The methods of bait fishing with floats/bobbers is very effective but often results in a fish hooked in the throat/gill rakers or deeper within the fish. Studies conducted by ADF&G and various other agencies on Catch and Release mortality rates has indicated that anglers utilizing bait create an exponentially higher mortality rate on released fish than that of fish released in fisheries where bait is not utilized.

A significant component of the Coho Salmon staging in this area are in the later stages of the lifecycle and have begun to deteriorate in food quality, thus requiring the discerning angler to high-grade, or sift through, caught fish in order to harvest edible Coho Salmon. The resulting mortality rate on bait caught and released Coho Salmon in this area needs to be addressed.

Due to a myriad of influences in river including but not limited to the increased population of pinnipeds, altering of food sources, angling pressure, and water conditions, a significant number of the larger in river resident species have come to reside in the same river locations as staging Coho Salmon. As the practice of bobber/float fishing with bait in these areas has increased exponentially, an increase in bait caught resident species has also increased. The catch and release of resident species with bait is resulting in a significantly high level mortality rate within those species and needs to be addressed.

Alaska Administrative Code Section 5 AAC 39.222 directs the board how to address such situations;

Section 5 AAC 39.222 - Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries

(a) The Board of Fisheries (board) and Department of Fish and Game (department) recognize that

(1) while, in the aggregate, Alaska's salmon fisheries are healthy and sustainable largely because of abundant pristine habitat and the application of sound, precautionary, conservation management practices, there is a need for a comprehensive policy for the regulation and management of sustainable salmon fisheries;

(2) in formulating fishery management plans designed to achieve maximum or optimum salmon production, the board and department must consider factors including environmental change, habitat loss or degradation, data uncertainty, limited funding for research and management programs, existing harvest patterns, and new fisheries or expanding fisheries;

(b) The goal of the policy under this section is to ensure conservation of salmon and salmon's required marine and aquatic habitats, protection of customary and traditional subsistence uses and other uses, and the sustained economic health of Alaska's fishing communities.

(c) Management of salmon fisheries by the state should be based on the following principles and criteria:

(2) salmon fisheries shall be managed to allow escapements within ranges necessary to conserve and sustain potential salmon production and maintain normal ecosystem functioning as follows:

(E) impacts of fishing, including incidental mortality and other human-induced mortality, should be assessed and considered in harvest management decisions;

(F) salmon escapement and harvest management decisions should be made in a manner that protects non-target salmon stocks or species;

(3) effective management systems should be established and applied to regulate human activities that affect salmon as follows:

(E) management programs should be effective in (i) controlling human-induced sources of fishing mortality and should incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement;

(5) in the face of uncertainty, salmon stocks, fisheries, artificial propagation, and essential habitats shall be managed conservatively as follows:

(A) a precautionary approach, involving the application of prudent foresight that takes into account the uncertainties in salmon fisheries and habitat management, the biological, social, cultural, and economic risks, and the need to take action with incomplete knowledge, should be applied to the regulation and control of harvest and other human-induced sources of salmon mortality; a precautionary approach requires

(i) consideration of the needs of future generations and avoidance of potentially irreversible changes;

(ii) prior identification of undesirable outcomes and of measures that will avoid undesirable outcomes or correct them promptly;

(iii) initiation of any necessary corrective measure without delay and prompt achievement of the measure's purpose, on a time scale not exceeding five years, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species;

(iv) that where the impact of resource use is uncertain, but likely presents a measurable risk to sustained yield, priority should be given to conserving the productive capacity of the resource;

(v) appropriate placement of the burden of proof, of adherence to the requirements of this subparagraph, on those plans or ongoing activities that pose a risk or hazard to salmon habitat or production

If this regulation is not adopted the increased catch and release mortality rate of staging Coho Salmon, via the process of high-grading, or sifting through subquality fish in order to harvest quality, edible fish will continue. Additionally, allowed to continue, the mortality rate on resident species within the Kenai River drainage will continue to increase as a direct result of bait fishing techniques.

Other considerations were:

Establish the area as year round Fly Fishing Only – This measure would limit opportunity for some user groups therefor it is not viable.

Close areas where this practice is most common – This measure would limit opportunity for all user groups in this mixed stock fishery and therefor is not viable.

PROPOSED BY: Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-041)

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Allow anglers to use two artificial flies in tandem on the Kenai River as follows:

(4) the following sport fishing gear restrictions apply:

(A) in flowing waters, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure, with a gap between point and shank of three-eighths inch or less, may be used **except that two artificial flies may be used in tandem provided the combined hook gap does not exceed three-eights inches;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska is the only state that prohibits anglers from fishing two flies in tandem for trout. It is a common practice throughout the world and is even allowed in competitive fly fishing where up to three flies can be used. This would also erase confusion with the regulation of “only single hook artificial lures may be used” which does allow for dropper rigs and is widely used in trout management waters throughout the state. By restricting the combined hook gap size, the problem of using multiple hooks to snag salmon would be eliminated because the hooks would have to be very small.

Alternatives Considered: Aligning the Kenai River with the rest of the state where two single hook artificial lures are allowed lead to thoughts that two lures would be used to snag sockeye salmon, by having a low hook gap restriction anyone fishing droppers would have to use very small flies not suitable for salmon fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick P McCormick

(EF-F23-080)

PROPOSAL 169

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area. and 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Change the definition of “bag limit” for sockeye salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers as follows:

Allow for hook & hand in the sockeye fishery on both the Kenai & Kasilof Rivers, and the limit applies to the angler who lands the fish not who hooked the fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Many anglers especially, old people, young kids, or beginner anglers need help in hooking sockeyes.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson

(EF-F23-103)

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.

...
(3)
...

(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 Loomis

(EF-F23-106)

PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Allow anglers to fish downstream of the Soldotna Bridge after taking a limit of coho salmon as follows:

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

...

(4) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

(i) sockeye, pink, and chum salmon may be taken from January 1 - December 31;

(ii) coho salmon may be taken in the Lower Section only from July 1 - November 30 and in the Middle Section only from July 1 - October 31; a person after taking and retaining a bag limit of coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length from the Kenai River may continue to sport fish [ONLY FROM THE SOLDOTNA BRIDGE UPSTREAM TO THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS AT THE OUTLET OF SKILAK LAKE]; notwithstanding the provision of this sub-subparagraph (a)(4)(A)(ii), coho salmon may not be taken from November 1 - November 30 in the Lower Section from the Bings Landing boat launch upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently once an angler has retained a bag limit of coho salmon from the Kenai River (July 1 – November 30) they may not continue to sport fish if below the Soldotna Bridge. If they cross the Soldotna bridge and are above it they may continue to sport fish for trout after retaining a bag limit of coho salmon.

I propose that this regulation be made consistent river wide, and anglers be allowed to continue to sport fish for trout after retaining a bag limit of coho salmon below the bridge, as they are allowed to above the bridge to the regulatory markers at the outlet of Skilak lake. This would allow anglers in the lower river below the bridge the same opportunity offered to those above the bridge and create a consistent regulation with less room for confusion or misinterpretation.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Loomis (EF-F23-168)

PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 57.140. Kenai River guiding and guided fishing requirements in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Allow fishing from a vessel after retention of a limit of coho salmon on the Kenai River as follows:

Allow fishing from a vessel after retention of limit of coho on the Kenai River below the Moose River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fishing after retention of limit of coho is allowed above moose river and should also be allowed below, many anglers would still like to fish for trout, pinks or sockeyes.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (EF-F23-100)

PROPOSAL 173

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan

Modify regulations for the Kenai River August coho salmon fishery as follows:

If king salmon season falls under one of the following categories at the end of July 31st then the following actions will take place in during August.

King salmon fishing is open and retention is allowed, then bait will open August 1st.

If king salmon fishing is open to catch and release then the following actions will take place. Bait will be restricted till August 7th below the Soldotna bridge with a single hook and only fished from an anchored boat or from shore.

Additionally, bait will be restricted till August 15th above the Soldotna bridge with a single hook and only fished from an anchored boat or from shore.

If King salmon fishing is closed then the following action is to restrict bait till August 15th from Skilak Lake down to Warren Ames bridge with a single hook and may only be fished from an anchored boat or from shore.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This is to help protect any late returning Kenai Kings as well as any spawning happening late in the season. We would help

accomplish this by changing the king management plan to have a more reliable and predictable use of bait during August Coho fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-100)

PROPOSAL 174

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.

Regulate use of bait in Kenai River in August as follows:

If the Kenai River late run of King salmon is open to harvest or restricted to Catch & release on the 31st of July when the season closes then the Kenai River coho fishery will open with use of bait on August 1st. If the King salmon sport fishery is closed at season end on July 31, then bait will be restricted in the coho salmon fishery thru august 7 and open for use on bait on August 8th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The excessive restriction of bait in the Kenai River coho fishery by EO until august 15 is overkill and ridiculous, this is a huge impact on Anglers for very little if any savings on king salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (EF-F23-098)

PROPOSAL 175

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the coho salmon limits in the Kenai River to two fish after August 30 as follows:

(3) coho salmon may be taken as follows:

(A) from July 1 through October 31, in the Middle and Upper Sections;

(B) from July 1 through November 30, in the Lower Section;

(C) from July 1 through **November 30,** [AUGUST 31,] the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is two fish;

(D) **Repealed** [FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, THE DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR COHO SALMON 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH IS THREE FISH.]

(c) If the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary for the in river sport or personal use fisheries, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen a season during which any or a combination of the following restrictions may be applied:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current limit for coho salmon begins at two fish from July 1 through August 31. The limit then changes to three fish from September 1 through November 30.

I propose that the limit for coho salmon does not experience a change in the middle of the season but remains at two fish from July 1 through November 30. If there is need for this limit to be changed due to run size or conservation efforts the commissioner has the power to do so through emergency orders. This would make the coho salmon fishery consistent with the other salmon fisheries having a consistent season long limit that can be liberalized or restricted based on in-season run data.

In addition, we just don't need three coho salmon a day. Coho are generally larger fish and people are very happy in August with two fish. Further this would allow more fish to make it to their spawning beds.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Loomis (EF-F23-161)

PROPOSAL 176

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Reduce the coho salmon limit on Kenai River after September 1 as follows:

Reduce Coho limit from 3 to 2 on the Kenai River after September 1st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To address the late run coho bag and possession limit on the Kenai River. Currently there is little to no data available for any run management. We would also like to give the department the authority to liberalize the bag and possession limit by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-104)

PROPOSAL 177

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Modify Kenai River coho salmon season and bag limits as follows:

Southcentral Alaska 2022 Sport Fishing Reg. Booklet Pg.51

Coho (Silver) Salmon

July 1 - **November 30:**

2 per day, 2 in possession. The limits for coho (silver) salmon in combination with sockeye or chum salmon. For example, you may have 1 sockeye or chum and 2 coho per day (or 2 sockeye or chum and 1 coho) -not 3 sockeye or chum and 2 coho per day.

Delete [SEPTEMBER 1-NOVEMBER 30
3 PER DAY, 6 IN POSSESSION IN COMBINATION (ALL 3 MAY BE COHO PER DAY)]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am proposing to keep the limit of coho salmon in the Kenai River at 2 throughout the entire season instead of raising it to 3 after September 1. Since the decline in king salmon fishing opportunity there has been more pressure on the coho fishery. We have witnessed marginal to low returns of coho over the last several years but the department keeps refusing to keep the limit at 2 fish after September 1 despite requests from fishermen to do so. When the run is weak, especially in the late run, many fishermen move their effort to the spawning areas in the middle river to enhance their chances for success. When these spawning holes are hit day after day late into the season one has to wonder how many fish are left for reproduction. We no longer enumerate coho in the Kenai and management relies strictly on anecdotal information from anglers to gauge the run strengths, but even when they are told that fishing is poor they still refuse to issue an emergency order keeping the limit at 2 fish instead of 3 that's allowed in the regulations. When we chose not to enumerate a certain species that receives heavy fishing pressure it is better to err on the side of conservation. Most anglers I know would support a 2 fish limit if it helps perpetuate this species and lends itself to more future sustainability of coho salmon in the Kenai.

What would happen if nothing is changed: The growing pressure on the Kenai River coho will continue to take its toll on the amount of spawning fish necessary for future sustainability. Future declining stocks could be inevitable if we do not take some measures to reduce harvest potential on these stocks.

What are other solutions you considered: Go back to enumerating coho on the Kenai River. This resource is to important to keep shooting in the dark on proper management decisions necessary to protect this species.

PROPOSED BY: Dwight Kramer (HQ-F23-055)

PROPOSAL 178

5 AAC 57.170. Kenai River Coho Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the season for the Kenai River coho salmon sport fishery as follows:

- (a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of coho salmon into the Kenai River drainage and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the Kenai River coho salmon stocks primarily to provide sport and guided sport fishermen with a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon resources over the entire run.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this chapter, for the conservation of coho salmon stocks, the department shall manage sport fishing in the Kenai River drainage as follows:

(1) coho salmon fishing is closed in the Middle and Upper Sections from November 1 through **July 31** [June 30], and in the Lower Section from December 1 through **July 31** [June 30]; any coho salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately without further harm;

(2) repealed 6/4/2008;

(3) coho salmon may be taken as follows:

(A) from **August 1** [July 1] through October 31, in the Middle and Upper Sections;

(B) from **August 1** [July 1] through November 30, in the Lower Section;

(C) from **August 1** [July 1] through August 31, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is two fish;

(D) from September 1 through November 30, the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length is three fish.

(c) If the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary for the inriver sport or personal use fisheries, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the season and immediately reopen a season during which any or a combination of the following restrictions may be applied:

(1) the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon is one fish;

(2) only unbaited artificial lures **shall** [may] be used;

(3) fishing time may be reduced;

(4) fishing areas may be reduced.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set netters are experiencing incredible hardships to protect Late Run Kenai King salmon, yet all that sacrifice is nullified by Coho fishermen catching Kings when they're at their weakest as they prepare to spawn. In the name of conservation, set netters have experienced mandatory closures despite an exploitation rate on kings of less than 1%, while all other user groups see their fisheries liberalized. Rather than share the burden of conservation, in-river users have received relaxed regulations pertaining to habitat and salmon conservation:

1) Outboards were increased from 35hp to 50hp rather than mandating smaller, more efficient vessels be used. Larger horsepower engines emit higher decibel readings, which increases overall noise pollution directed at king salmon spawning beds.

2) Fresh water log books, are no longer required from commercial guides. Because of this the department is willfully ignorant to the number of kings “inadvertently” caught in the coho fishery.

Per Alaska Department of Fish and Game, returning chinook spend 30-60 days in river before they spawn and die. If the morbidity rate on unintended king catch is just one per day (on spawning kings counted with the chinook sonar project), the impact to the king run is greater than the entire yearly East Side Setnet king harvest averaged over the past five years. Since ADF&G is unable to provide current data on king bycatch from the in-river coho fishery due to the lack of log books, the BOF needs to error on the side of caution and restrict the fishery to avoid unintended king catch. The 2020 BOF took these same steps by closing the west side Drift River and Kustatan River gillnet silver fishery, since data was lacking on the sustainability of those runs. In the absence of no fresh water log book data, the BOF should also restrict the coho fishery on the Kenai to ensure the sustainability of spawning king salmon.

Throughout the entirety of July, coho numbers in the Kenai River remain low; at the same time Late Run Kenai kings are peaking. There is no justifiable reason to put additional pressure on the king run by attempting to harvest cohos, which are yet to arrive in any appreciable numbers. Permitting coho fishing in July allows fishermen to subvert king closures by “targeting” coho using slightly modified king gear, therefore engaging in a de facto catch and release king fishery.

In order to share the burden of conservation and help offset the above mentioned relaxed regulations, bait and time need to be restricted in the coho fishery in order to avoid any incidental king catch. Artificial lures, i.e. twitching for silvers, throwing spinners, etc, are very effective and efficient means of harvesting silvers with minimal impact on spawning king salmon. These methods are proven to avoid incidental king catch while still providing an effective means of harvesting coho salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Nyce (EF-F23-162)

PROPOSAL 179

5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Close additional waters to sport fishing in the upper Kenai River as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 57.123 (9) to read as follows:

(9) the following waters of the Upper Section are closed to sport fishing, as follows:

(A) from January 1- June 10, the flowing waters of the Upper Section from the Sterling Hwy bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, downstream to Mile 53 bridge.

[from May 1 - June 10, all flowing waters of the Upper Section];

(B) from May 1 - June 10, the flowing waters of the Upper Section from the Mile 53 bridge downstream to the Skilak Lake Inlet.

[from May 1 - June 10, and from September 15 - October 31, the Quartz Creek drainage upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge, including Devils Creek, Johns Creek, Jerome Creek, Summit Creek, Slate Creek, and the South Fork of the Snow River.];

(C) from May 1 - June 10, and from September 15 - October 31, the Quartz Creek drainage upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge, including Devils Creek, Johns Creek, Jerome Creek, Summit Creek, Slate Creek, and the South Fork of the Snow River.

Another option considered was extending the winter closure beyond the historical boundary of the Mile 53 bridge downstream to Skilak Lake. This would make it easier for anglers to remember which section of river is closed, however, this option was rejected as it provided no opportunity for any winter angling on the Upper Kenai.

Works Cited

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Smolt Abundance and Summary Statistics for Kenai River Coho Salmon", 2007.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue to be addressed is closing the loophole used by anglers to target out of season spawning coho salmon on the Upper Kenai River after the date of season closure of November 1.

The first reach of the Upper Kenai from the outlet of Kenai Lake just upstream of the Russian River is a spawning area for populations of coho salmon. The Upper Kenai River lacks much study and data regarding coho populations, as the breadth of the published research and datasets regarding coho populations focuses on the Lower Kenai and Moose Rivers (Massengill 2006-ADFG Fishery Data Series No. 08-21, Massengill 2007- ADFG Fishery Data Series No. 13-42). However, late run coho can be visibly observed in this area throughout the winter months and into late March and early April.

During the early 2000's the Upper Kenai River was closed for sport fishing from the Sterling Hwy bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake, downstream to Mile 53 bridge from January 1- June 10 (open June 11-Dec 31). Later that closure was removed and the entire Upper Kenai was closed to sport fishing from May 1- June 10 (open June 11-April 30). The prior closure from bridge to bridge existed to protect spawning rainbow trout populations on the Upper Kenai River. The closure also inadvertently protected coho salmon populations. As we've encountered much warmer winters during the period that this stretch of water has been open for fishing all winter, the liberation of the closure has had the unintended consequence of undue and unnecessary pressure on coho salmon on their spawning beds.

Studies evaluating the rainbow trout populations in the Upper Kenai River by Hayes and Hasbrouck (1996) and Lafferty (1989) found that these populations migrate to either Kenai and Skilak Lakes for overwintering by December and that return migration from winter to summer areas is complete by the end of June. Because of these migration patterns, there is low angling opportunity for rainbow trout in the Upper Kenai River during the overwintering months.

Although the angling opportunity for legal species is low during the winter months, anglers are aware that they can target spawning coho salmon on the Upper Kenai in Cooper Landing and say it is inadvertent "bycatch" as the result of rainbow trout and dolly varden fishing. Anglers are specifically targeting silvers, using flies and techniques generally accepted and visibly obvious as those used for coho salmon fishing.

5 AAC 57.170 (Kenai River coho Salmon Management Plan) directs that

(1) coho salmon fishing is closed in the Middle and Upper Sections from November 1 through June 30, and in the Lower Section from December 1 through June 30; any coho salmon caught incidentally must be released immediately without further harm.

Anglers are not immediately releasing incidentally caught coho without further harm. Anglers exploiting this loophole proceed to land the fish, remove it from the water, and take a lengthy photo or video session. This is visible on the social media platforms where the anglers are posting. The use of social media spreads trends and ideas like a contagion, and it has become popular to fish for Coho salmon on the Upper Kenai between November 1 and April 30.

Recently a group of anglers from Kenai were cited for doing just this. According to KDLL News in an article from March 9, 2023 (see URL above), "Alaska Wildlife Troopers caught three Kenai anglers in a fishing violation posted on their own YouTube channel — but let them go with some fines. In the video, troopers say the men removed Coho salmon from the water on the Upper Kenai River, which is not allowed during the closed season from November to June." Although the level of enforcement has been low in relation to the frequency these violations are occurring, this recent enforcement brings attention to the issue.

If nothing is changed and the pressure on sensitive spawning Coho populations in this area remains unchecked during the closed season, the result could be lower smolt abundance, diminished Coho returns, and ultimately reduced harvest opportunity for all sport anglers targeting Upper Kenai River Coho Salmon, where there is already a limited harvest opportunity.

PROPOSAL 180

5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Close waters of the Kenai River from the Sterling Highway Bridge to Kenai Lake to sport fishing as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 57.123 (9) to read as follows:

5 AAC 57.123 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

...

(9) the following waters of the Upper Section are closed to sport fishing, as follows:

(A) from May 1 -June 10, all flowing waters of the Upper Section;

(B) from May 1 - June 10, and from September 15 - October 31, the Quartz Creek drainage upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge, including Devils Creek, Johns Creek, Jerome Creek, Summit Creek, slate Creek, and the South Fork of the Snow River.

C) from January 1 – April 1 within one quarter mile of Kenai Lake outlet downstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge located at approximately mile 53 of the Sterling Highway.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased angler pressure during winter months on coho salmon spawning areas on the Upper Kenai River.

The Upper Kenai River from the outlet of Kenai Lake downstream to the Sterling Highway bridge located at mile 53 of the Sterling Highway is a highly utilized spawning area for coho salmon. The Upper Kenai River lacks much study and data regarding coho populations, as the breadth of the published research and datasets regarding coho populations focuses on the Lower Kenai River and Moose River (Massengill 2006- ADFG Fishery Data Series No. 08-21, Massengill 2007- ADFG Fishery Data Series No. 13-42). However, late run coho salmon can be observed staging and spawning in the area throughout the winter months.

With limited angling opportunity during winter months, and anglers aware that spawning coho salmon on the Upper Kenai River in Cooper Landing are available as “bycatch” while sport fishing for resident species. Angler pressure has increased exponentially during winter months when spawning coho salmon are most vulnerable and the Upper Kenai River is easily accessible.

At current levels of limited law enforcement resources citations have been issued in this fishery within the Cooper Landing area.

If the increased angling pressure and bycatch on sensitive spawning coho salmon populations in this area remains unchecked, the result could be lower smolt abundance, diminished coho salmon returns, and ultimately reduced harvest opportunity for all users.

PROPOSED BY: Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-044)

PROPOSAL 181

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

Close waters of the Kenai River to sport fishing from January 1 – June 10 as follows:

Section 5 AAC 57.121

...

(2) the following waters are closed to sportfishing as follows;

(K) from **January** [MAY] 1 – June 10, in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased angling pressure on resident species of the Kenai River during winter months.

Due to its locale and accessibility the Kenai River has more angler use days than any other watershed in the State of Alaska. With liberal seasons and ample opportunity throughout the entire year the Kenai River is currently supporting angling pressure twelve months a year. As the population of southcentral Alaska increases recreation on the Kenai River is also increasing. The Board of Fish has provided the ADF&G with salmon management plans, and the tools required to manage such populations with little to no direction being provided by the board regarding the management of resident species. With the continued low abundance of Kenai River King Salmon and the in-river restrictions implemented, many anglers have turned their focus to the targeting of resident species, and in recent years anglers targeting resident species have become the most prevalent user group on the Kenai River, with opportunities to fish twelve months a year. This has resulted in an uptick in popularity and participation of the resident species fishery which currently has extremely liberal seasons. It is my contention that the resident species be given respite in times of low food abundance and the cold weather months.

The angling pressure on the Lower Kenai River downstream of Skilak Lake in the winter months has steadily increased in the past twenty years, exponentially so in the past 5 years. Access via multiple boat launches operated by state, federal, and private landowners provide access to open water during the winter months. During these winter months the water levels in river drop significantly, concentrating fish in areas where food, slower current, and safety from predators can be found. As the water temperatures decrease fish become lethargic, localized, and repetitive in their feeding behavior, resulting in opportunities to target fish that are otherwise difficult to locate

and target the remainder of the year. The continued fishing pressure in these areas of concentrated fish during times of subfreezing temperatures and lower abundance of food sources is resulting in many of the same fish being consistently targeted throughout the winter months. Unfortunately, many of the anglers participating in the resident species winter fishery execute the fishery in a manner that is not consistent with catch and release ethics, posing with fish out of the water in subfreezing temperatures or laying fish on snow, ice, or frozen ground to photograph the fish – as observed on multiple social media platforms and websites. The resident species within the State of Alaska deserve protection equal to that of our salmon populations. If viewed in a similar manner to salmon escapement, resident species having eluded and/or survived anglers throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons, that are concentrated in feeding and/or staging areas for the winter months, should be protected and given respite from constant angling pressure.

Recognizing that most of the anglers participating in this winter fishery are local residents it is understandable that the opportunity to target these fish at a time when the fish are easier to locate is attractive and gaining in popularity. The Kenai River resident species are under duress via a myriad of influences in river including the increased population of pinnipeds, decreased salmon spawning activity, altering of food sources, changing weather and water conditions, as well as angling pressure. Of the influences mentioned above, angling pressure and decreased salmon spawning activity are the only factors that can be addressed by the Board.

As the winter months pass a population of resident fish with potential to spawn begin to concentrate and stage in areas downstream of Skilak Lake. These pre-spawn fish require unabated access to food sources and staging areas in order to successfully spawn. The disturbance and/or potential relocation of these pre-spawn fish due to angling pressure could prove detrimental to the spawning success of these resident fishes.

The concept of protecting staging fish in the winter and pre-spawn fish in spring months has merit and precedence in the State of Alaska;

- Ex: The late fall and spring closure of the Anchor River for the protection of the Steelhead population.

If the board takes no action the Kenai River resident species will continue to be targeted year round, including winter months when the fish are concentrated and easily targeted. The continued excessive pressure on the Kenai River in months of subfreezing temperatures has the potential for the in river resident species to experience a decline in older/larger fish, resulting in a lack of large fish capable of participating in, and surviving the spawning cycle.

Other considerations; Restrict access via the various agencies public use facilities in the area. There are private landowners that access, and provide access, to the Kenai River in this area so this consideration is not viable.

Close the Kenai River from ADF&G regulatory markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake downstream to Bings Landing January 1 - June 10. This would place a burden on users and eliminate the opportunity for local residents and landowners to fish for sockeye during the early run sockeye season and thus was considered not viable.

PROPOSED BY: Josh Hayes

(HQ-F23-046)

PROPOSAL 182

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Prohibit nonresident sport fishing on the Kenai River, as follows:

Fish on the Kenai River will be for residents only, until there is a significant rebound in the king salmon runs. In times of shortage, the non-resident will be restricted first. The constitution.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Habitat and no Kenai kings.

PROPOSED BY: John McCombs

(HQ-F23-062)

PROPOSAL 183

5 AAC 57.150. Russian River Sockeye Management Plan.

Allow the department to take action sooner to harvest surplus in Russian River sockeye salmon runs as follows:

5 AAC 57.150 is amended to read:

...

(X) If the department is able to project the Russian River sockeye salmon escapement goal will be achieved the commissioner may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department’s Russian River sockeye salmon assessment weir is located at the outlet of Lower Russian Lake, upriver of the fishery for those stocks. The truncated timing of the early run and frequent strong performance of late-run Russian River sockeye stocks along with current emergency order authority, has limited the department’s ability to increase harvest potential, since existing emergency order authority (5 AAC 75.003(2)(A)) does not allow an increase in bag limits until the escapement goal is projected to be exceeded.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-022)

PROPOSAL 184

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Move 3-mile boundary marker to Old Kasilof Landing (river mile 4) as follows:

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8)(B) is amended to read:

...

(8)(B)(v) from January 1 — July 31, a motor may be used only between the mouth of the Kasilof River and an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately [three miles] **four miles** upstream **near Old Kasilof Landing**, and only after fishing from the vessel has ceased for the day; a person may not deploy sport fishing gear from a vessel after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on the same day;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Old Kasilof Landing is owned by Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and is located at approximately river mile 4 on the Kasilof River. Construction is scheduled to begin at Old Kasilof Landing in 2023 (with a completion date of 2025) to develop parking and a drift boat retrieval site in an effort to address increasing demand for this type of facility for the popular drift boat only fishery on the Kasilof River. With the development of the property, it would be beneficial to sport fishing anglers to move the marker to approximately river mile 4 to be located across from the site. By moving the marker to this location, it will allow sport fishing anglers to use 10 horsepower motors or less after fishing has ceased for the day to motor up to this retrieval site.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-009)

PROPOSAL 185

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area

Allow only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures in the Kasilof River as follows:

Single hook and no bait from January 1st to June 30th from the upstream Tustamena boat launch down to the Sterling Highway bridge.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like to protect any wild stocks as well as make sure that a catch and release fishery does not have the use of bait allowed.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-101)

PROPOSAL 186

5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Update the stocked lakes list for the Kenai Peninsula Area as follows:

5 AAC 56.120(1)(B) is amended to read:

...

(1)(B)(ii) from January 1 — December 31, may be taken in stocked lakes and ponds; bag and possession limit of 10 fish; for the purpose of this sub-subparagraph, “stocked lakes and ponds” means Arc Lake, Aurora Lake, Barbara Lake, Cabin Lake, [Cecille Lake], Centennial Lake,

Chugach Estates Lake, Douglas Lake, Elephant Lake, Encelewski Lake, Island Lake, **John Hedberg Lake**, Johnson Lake, Longmere Lake, Loon Lake, [Quintin Lake], Rogue Lake, Scout Lake, Sport Lake, Thetis Lake, Tirmore Lake, Troop Lake, and Upper Summit Lake;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Stocking has been discontinued in two Kenai Peninsula Area lakes and conversely, stocking was newly initiated in one lake. Anglers may miss the benefit of greater bag limits for stocked waters and enforcement would not be able to monitor fisheries appropriately.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-011)

PROPOSAL 187

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

Remove the effective date of regulation pertaining to sport fishing from a motor driven boat as follows:

5 AAC 60.122(a)(9)(L) is amended to read:

(L) [BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017, a] A person may not sport fish from a boat that is powered by use of a motor, unless the motor is a four-stroke motor or a direct fuel injection two-stroke motor;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A implementation date for this regulation is no longer necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F23-013)

PROPOSAL 188

5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Prohibit bait and multiple hooks in Hidden Lake as follows:

Hidden Lake is single hook no bait January 1st - December 31st

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hidden lake is the only clear water lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) fishery on the Kenai Peninsula. These fish are slow growing and can be easily pressured. Looking to protect the fishery as additional use become more prevalent with more local closures.

PROPOSED BY: Will Lee (EF-F23-060)
