

PROPOSALS FOR APRIL 28, 2009 BOARD OF FISHERIES TELECONFERENCE

Proposal A: Liberalize limits for Northern pike in Alexander Lake.

Proposal B: Increase bag limit and modify annual limit for sablefish in Southeast Alaska.

This proposal was developed during the March 16-20, 2009 Board of Fisheries meeting and is scheduled for consideration during the April 28, 2009 teleconference.

PROPOSAL A - 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions al localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Liberalize the size limit for Northern pike in Alexander Lake as follows:

....

(E) in Alexander Lake, the size and bag limits for northern pike are as follows:

(i) northern pike less than **27** [22] inches in length; no bag or possession limit;

[(ii) NORTHERN PIKE 22 INCHES IN LENGTH TO 30 INCHES IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED;]

(iii) northern pike greater than **27** [30] inches in length; bag and possession limit of one fish;

...

(7) in the flowing waters of **Alexander Lake**, Fish Creek (lower Susitna River drainage), Fish Creek (Kroto Slough), and Witsoe Creek, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately.

ISSUE: The Board heard concerns from the public about the overall health of king salmon stocks in Alexander Creek area. It also heard concerns over the impact of restrictive size limits for sport fishing for pike as part of an experimental harvest regime in a Department of Fish and Game study area. The Board understands that the restrictive size limits are no longer needed for the department study and that the elimination of these slot limits may be beneficial. The Board acted to put this proposal forward at this time to allow for public review and possible regulatory action in 2009.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The restrictive limits will continue in place, resulting in a high abundance of pike in age classes potentially having the most impact on salmon production.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those wanting added harvest opportunity for pike in Alexander Lake. Also, it is anticipated that an indirect benefit would be an increase in the productivity of salmon recruitment in this drainage system.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Waiting for the topic come up during the next Cook Inlet meeting cycle in 2010/2011.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

This proposal was developed during the March 16-20, 2009 Board of Fisheries meeting and is scheduled for consideration during the April 28, 2009 teleconference.

PROPOSAL B - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Increase the resident and nonresident daily bag limit for sablefish (black cod) in Southeast Alaska and remove the resident annual limit as follows:

For resident anglers: sablefish may be taken from January 1 through December 31; daily bag limit of **four** [TWO] fish, possession limit of four fish, and **no annual limit** [ANNUAL LIMIT OF EIGHT FISH].

For nonresident anglers: sablefish may be taken from January 1 through December 31; daily bag limit of **four** [TWO] fish, possession limit of four fish, and annual limit of eight fish.

ISSUE: During the February 2009 Board of Fisheries meeting in Sitka, the Board adopted a proposal that set new limits on the sport fishing harvest of sablefish. The newly enacting limits specify a daily bag limit of two fish, a possession limit of four fish, and an annual limit of eight fish for both resident and nonresident anglers.

At this time, the Board would like to consider a proposal that would raise the daily bag limit to four fish for all anglers and remove the annual limit for resident anglers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The daily bag limit of two fish and the resident annual limit of eight fish as enacted in February 2009 would continue in place.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and nonresident anglers who would like to catch more than two fish per day could benefit. Also, resident anglers who would like take more than eight fish annually could benefit. Charter guides and charter lodge operations would also benefit by being able to offer increased fishing opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Participants in the commercial sablefish fishery could suffer to the extent that an increased harvest of sablefish in the sport fishery could reduce the allowable harvest for the commercial fishery.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Waiting for the topic to come up during the next Southeast Finfish meeting cycle in 2011/2012.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries
