

**PROPOSAL 206 – 5 AAC 75.995 Definitions. (a)(40).** Revise definition of “closely attended” as it applies to coho salmon fishing, as follows:

Solution: I propose that fall fishing for coho’s "attentive" be changed as follows:

1. If a person is more than an arm’s length from their fishing rod, the rod must have an audible devise attached to it (i.e. bell).
2. The fisherman must be attentive to their rod and not more than seven (7) rod lengths from his or her pole while in a rod holder. (Most people can cover the distance of seven rod lengths in 5–7 seconds, which should be an allowable response time).
3. If a person is farther than 7 rod lengths from their fishing rod (i.e. going after a runaway child), a second person must be a designated observer to assist in rod attendance (attentiveness).

If this regulation is not changed: (I am sure that ADFG wants Alaskans to go fishing and does not want to regulate the fun and safety out of fall fishing.)

1. Citizens will continue to fish outside the regulation requirements. They are breaking the law. This also includes fisherman fishing from inside the cabins of their boats as well.
2. If the ranger does his job and cites all the Alaskans that are farther than an arm’s length from their fishing rod, there will be a lot of very unhappy citizens.
3. Families have a need to be warm while out in the Alaskan elements (i.e. by a fire, shelter), so this rule either encourages them to build a fire closer to the river (not in a designated safe fire pit), and/or risk the effects of cold exposure longer than they are able to safely endure.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I was informed by a park ranger on the Kenai River in September that a person fishing must be attending to their rod within arm’s length when bank fishing. I was informed that I would be given a citation if I was not within arm’s length of my fishing pole in a rod holder on the bank. I am having a difficult time finding this rule in the regulations although I am sure that it is there and the ranger is right, and within his duty to cite all fisherman that are more than one arm’s length of their fishing rods. I took a tally of about 30 fishermen fishing for coho at a park on the Kenai a day after I was warned. The majority of the fishermen were sitting, standing, visiting up the bank from their rods. Of the thirty or so, I counted a half dozen within arm’s length of their rods, and those were baiting up or working with their poles for some other reason.

Fall is cold, often rainy, windy and below freezing temperatures. It is unreasonable to expect us Alaskan folks to not be able to stand by a fire, sit in a vehicle (or cabin of their boat) while they enjoy an outing fishing with friends and family.

This regulation should be changed so that a reasonable and prudent person can enjoy fishing without a ranger watching them to be sure they are no more than an arm’s length from their fishing pole. This also applies to children.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Hoback

(EF-C15-003)

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