

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area., 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area., 5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish., 5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area., 5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area., 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area., and 5 AAC 62.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area. Require the use of circle hooks when fishing for sockeye salmon, as follows:

The Board of Fisheries should implement the circle hook as the legal hook for sockeye fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sockeye sports fishery has become very popular. The method of catching sockeye is with a single hook coho fly stripped through the water to try to legally hook the sockeye in the mouth. The hook commonly snags the salmon in the tail, dorsal fin or other parts of the body and has to be released. This happens frequently and a lot of sockeye die from the stress of catch and release. The hooks are also good a hooking people. There is a better way, with circle hooks. Circle hooks are much less likely to snag a salmon other than in the mouth. This would dramatically reduce catch and release mortality. Circle hook are also much safer and less likely to snag a persons body. The halibut fishery was reluctant to use circle hooks but now they are the norm because of their efficiency.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F16-170)
