

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Establish sport fishery closure times in the Larsen Creek drainage, as follows:

Larsen Creek including all waters within a ¼ mile radius of its confluence with the Talkeetna River closed to fishing from 11:00 pm to 6:00 am from July 1 to August 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a more organized fishery at the confluence of Larsen Creek and the Talkeetna River. Susitna River drainage sockeye salmon are currently designated as a Stock of Yield Concern. Larsen Creek is one of three indicator/ index lakes used to assess sockeye production in the Susitna Valley. ~Larsen Lake is the only monitored and index lake used by ADF&G to assess the sockeye production and spawning success on the main stream of the Susitna River. It has barely made escapement goals in the last 5 years and has had to be closed twice during that time due to low escapement numbers early on.

The area where people fish is a concentrated area at the confluence of the Talkeetna River and Larsen creek. Access into the mouth of Larson creek and the Talkeetna river confluence can be crowded with people wading shoulder to shoulder in the creek making fish passage difficult.

Rod and reel fishermen who would normally fish till 11:00 pm then sleep at the creek and fish at 1:00 am will be less likely to spend the night. Guides will still arrive at 6: 00 am to bring their clients through. This may intensify fishing during that period of the day, but it would allow a reprieve during the night for escapement.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission (EF-F16-033)
