

**PROPOSAL 74 – 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.**

Align the Kenai River king salmon sanctuaries start date, and boat closures with the proposed rainbow trout spawning closure start date, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121(3) is amended to read:

(3) a person may not sport fish from a boat

...

(B) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], in the following waters:

...

(C) from **May 1** [MAY 15] until the end of the king salmon season, or July 31, whichever is later, in the following waters:

...

(D) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], in 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;

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted this suite of proposals to provide the board an opportunity to review Kenai River sport fishing regulations and consider changes to simplify and align regulations. Nearly all existing regulations that have dates which trigger general or special provisions to sport fish regulations reference the first, last or middle day of a month. The purpose is to create regulations 1) with consistent dates that encompass biological concerns, and 2) that are easily understood by the public. Regulations have been adopted in the Kenai River Drainage Area over the years for various fisheries based on biological as well as social issues. In many cases dates that start or discontinue regulations for one fishery do not align with regulations for another fishery in the same area. Over time this created regulations that are disjointed, overly complex, and not easily understood by the public. These proposals identify regulations that, taken as a whole, would align dates and waters to simplify regulations without impacting fishery management objectives. Aligning regulations for consistency will improve public communication, decrease regulatory complexity and increase public understanding of the sport fishing regulations in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-135)

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