

PROPOSAL 79 – 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. Change the Kenai River king salmon sanctuaries and the Moose-Kenai rivers confluence area fly-fishing-only waters to artificial fly waters, and align dates for these special provisions with other provisions, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121(1) is amended to read:

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

...

(E) from **May 1 – July 31, the portion of the Kenai River from ADF&G markers located approximately 100 yards downstream of the mouth of the Moose River, upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 100 yards upstream from the mouth of the Moose River, and the Moose River upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly may be used** [MAY 15 – AUGUST 15, THE MOOSE RIVER FROM ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KENAI RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE UPSTREAM EDGE OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE, AND THE WATERS OF THE KENAI RIVER WITHIN A 100-YARD RADIUS OF THE MOOSE RIVER, ARE FLY-FISHING-ONLY WATERS];

(F) from **May 1 – July 31, in the following waters only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly may be used** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31, THE FOLLOWING WATERS ARE FLY-FISHING-ONLY WATERS]:

...

(G) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], 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, **only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial fly may be used** [IS FLY-FISHING-ONLY WATERS];

...

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-F16-139)
