PROPOSAL 81 – 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Create consistent rainbow/steelhead trout regulations in the Kasilof River above and below the Sterling Highway Bridge and amend the open season date for Tustumena Lake tributaries to protect spawning rainbow/steelhead trout, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8)(B)(vii) is repealed:

(8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries;

…

(B) the following special provisions apply in that portion downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:

…

(vii) repealed ___/____/2017 [RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE POSSESSED OR RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY; A PERSON MAY NOT REMOVE A RAINBOW/STEELHEAD FROM THE WATER BEFORE RELEASING THE FISH];

…

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(D) rainbow/steelhead trout may not be possessed or retained; rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a rainbow/steelhead from the water before releasing the fish;

5 AAC 56.122(a)(12)(B) is amended to read:

(12) Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

…

(B) except as specified in (A) of this paragraph, the tributaries of Tustumena Lake are open to sport fishing only from June 11 – April 30 [JUNE 11 – MAY 1];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Align rainbow/steelhead trout regulations in the Kasilof River drainage by creating the same regulation above and below the Sterling Highway Bridge. In addition, this regulation changes the open season for rainbow/steelhead trout in tributaries to align with the open season in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-143)