

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH  
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 8, 2017**

**PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.** Align size restrictions for Dolly Varden and rainbow trout bag limit in the flowing waters of the Kenai River Drainage Area, as follows:

5 AAC 57.120(a)(5) and (6) are amended to read:

(5) Arctic char/Dolly Varden may be taken from

(A) January 1 – December 31, in all flowing waters from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to Skilak Lake, and the waters of Skilak Lake, **upstream to Kenai Lake, including the flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainage** [EXCEPT THE WATERS WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER INLET]; bag and possession limit of one fish less than **16** [18] inches in length; Arctic char/Dolly Varden **16** [18] inches or greater in length may not be retained; Arctic char/Dolly Varden caught that are **16** [18] inches or greater in length must be released immediately;

...

(C) **repealed** / /**2017** [JUNE 11 – MAY 1, IN ALL FLOWING WATERS FROM THE WATERS OF SKILAK LAKE WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER INLET, UPSTREAM TO KENAI LAKE, INCLUDING THE FLOWING WATERS OF THE KENAI LAKE DRAINAGE; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY];

(6) rainbow/steelhead trout

...

(B) may be taken from January 1 – December 31, in all flowing waters from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to **Skilak Lake, and the waters of Skilak Lake, upstream to Kenai Lake, including the flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainage** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER, AND FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1 IN THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER UPSTREAM TO SKILAK LAKE AND THE WATERS OF SKILAK LAKE, EXCEPT THE WATER WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER INLET]; bag and possession limit of one fish less than **16** [18] inches in length; rainbow/steelhead trout **16** [18] inches or greater in length may not be retained; rainbow/steelhead trout caught that are **16** [18] inches or greater in length must be released immediately;

(C) **repealed** / /**2017** [MAY BE TAKEN FROM JUNE 11 - MAY 1, IN ALL FLOWING WATERS UPSTREAM OF SKILAK LAKE, AND THE WATERS OF SKILAK LAKE WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER

INLET; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The size (total length) of the one fish Dolly Varden bag limit Kenai River anglers may retain differs by river section. This would create the same size restriction for all areas of the Kenai River Drainage Area. 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-F16-134)  
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**PROPOSAL 72 – 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.** Amend general provisions for lakes and ponds of the Kenai River drainage to restore winter ice fisheries for landlocked coho salmon less than 16 inches in length, as follows:

5 AAC 57.120(a)(4) is amended to read:

(4) salmon, other than king salmon,  
(A) 16 inches or greater in length, as follows:

...

(ii) coho salmon may be taken in the Lower Section only from July 1 – November 30 and in the Middle **Section** [AND UPPER SECTIONS] only from July 1 – October 31; a person after taking and retaining a bag limit of coho salmon 16 inches or greater in length from the Kenai River may continue to sport fish only from the Soldotna Bridge upstream to the ADF&G regulatory markers at the outlet of Skilak Lake;

...

(B) less than 16 inches in length [MAY BE TAKEN FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31]; bag and possession limit of 10 fish, **may be taken as follows:**

**(i) sockeye, pink, and chum salmon may be taken from January 1 – December 31;**

**(ii) coho salmon may be taken in the Lower Section only from July 1 – November 30 and in the Middle Section only from July 1 – October 31, except that coho salmon may be taken in lakes and ponds, excluding Skilak Lake, from January 1 – December 31;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Select lakes in the lower and middle section of the Kenai River Drainage Area can become temporarily landlocked from year to year between high water events. Under these circumstances the typical life history of coho salmon is interrupted to the extent that the fish do not migrate to sea and remain to become resident freshwater

fish. Historically, coho salmon fishing season was open year round and the public harvested these fish during the winter while fishing through the ice. Changes to coho salmon fishing seasons for the Kenai River precluded the harvest of coho salmon less than 16 inches during the winter in these select lakes. Changing the regulation will allow harvest of landlocked coho salmon during the winter.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-141)  
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**PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 56.122. 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 Swanson River rainbow trout spawning closure with the proposed Kenai River drainage rainbow trout spawning closure start date, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122(a)(11)(B) is amended to read:

(11) Swanson River drainage:

...

(B) flowing waters, from **June 11 – April 30** [JUNE 15 – APRIL 14], are open to sport fishing, except for king salmon;

**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 for dates to trigger general or special provisions to sport fish regulations are at 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 over the years for various fisheries based on biological as well as social issues. In many cases dates to implement or discontinue regulations for one fishery, do not align with regulations for another fishery in the same area. Over time this creates regulations that are disjointed, overly complex, and not implicit to 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-F16-146)  
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**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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**PROPOSAL 75 - 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 dates anglers are prohibited from fishing from boats with rainbow trout closure, as follows:

**Change 5 AAC 57.121 (3) (A) and 5 AAC 57.121 (3) (D) as follows:**

- 5 AAC 57.121 (3) a person may not sport fish from a boat
  - (B) from **May 2** [JANUARY 1] - July 31, in the following waters:
  - (D) from **May 2** [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 current regulations for three sections of the Kenai River currently restrict sport fishing from a boat from January 1-July 31. There does not appear to be any biological reason for these restrictions because sport fishing from shore for rainbow trout is allowed and king salmon are not present in the Kenai River until May. Changes to these regulations would not change the biological protections for king salmon or spawning rainbow trout. Aligning the proposed closure dates to be consistent with the rainbow trout closure dates, which are currently May 2 - July 31, would provide the same protections to spawning rainbow trout while simplifying the regulations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Buntjer (EF-F16-051)

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**PROPOSAL 76 – 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 tributary fishing closure start dates with the proposed king salmon sanctuaries and rainbow trout spawning closure start dates, and align all Kenai River tributary closures so they have similar closure periods, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121(2) is amended to read:

(2) the following waters of the Kenai River **drainage** are closed to sport fishing, as follows:

(A) from **May 1 – July 31** [APRIL 15 – AUGUST 15], Slikok Creek, **Funny River, and Killey River;**

(B) from **May 1 – June 10, all remaining** [JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, THE] flowing waters of **the Lower Kenai Section, including Beaver Creek, Soldotna Creek, and in the Moose River upstream of the upper edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge** [UPSTREAM OF ADF&G MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET UPSTREAM FROM ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KENAI RIVER];

(C) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM MAY 2 – JUNE 10, THE FLOWING WATERS OF SOLDOTNA CREEK DOWNSTREAM FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET UPSTREAM FROM ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KENAI RIVER];

(D) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile downstream from the mouth of the Funny River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream from the mouth of the Funny River, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

(E) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM JUNE 11 – AUGUST 14, THE FUNNY RIVER FROM THE KENAI RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE FUNNY RIVER ROAD BRIDGE;

(F) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM MAY 2 – JUNE 10, THE FLOWING WATERS OF MOOSE RIVER UPSTREAM OF THE UPPER EDGE OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE];

(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, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

...

(J) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], the waters in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

(K) from **May 1 – June 10** [MAY 2 – JUNE 10], in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake;

...

**(M) all tributaries to the Lower Section of the Kenai River, except a section of the Moose River from its mouth upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, are closed to sport fishing for salmon;**

**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-F16-136)

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**PROPOSAL 77 – 5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Align the Kenai River tributary fishing closure start dates with the proposed king salmon sanctuaries and rainbow trout spawning closure start dates, and align all Kenai River tributary closures so they have similar fishing seasons, such that anglers are prohibited from fishing for salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 57.122(1) is amended to read:

(1) the following waters of the Middle Section of Kenai River drainage are **closed to sport fishing**, [OPEN TO SPORT FISHING, ONLY] as follows:

(A) from **May 1 – June 10** [JUNE 11 – MAY 1], the Kenai River from the waters of Skilak Lake within a one-half mile radius of the Kenai River inlet, upstream to the downstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet of Kenai Lake;

(B) from **May 1 – June 10 and from September 15 – October 31, the flowing waters of** [JUNE 11 – SEPTEMBER 14, AND FROM NOVEMBER 1 – MAY 1,] Cooper Creek;

(C) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1, FLOWING WATERS OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM OF A POINT APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS FROM ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KENAI RIVER, EXCLUDING UPPER RUSSIAN (GOAT) CREEK];

(D) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM JULY 15 – MAY 1, THE RUSSIAN RIVER SANCTUARY, INCLUDING WATERS UPSTREAM FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED JUST DOWNSTREAM OF THE FERRY CROSSING ON THE KENAI RIVER TO ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 300 YARDS UPSTREAM OF THE PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH AT SPORTSMANS LANDING (INCLUDING THE WATERS AROUND THE UPSTREAM END OF THE ISLAND NEAR THE RUSSIAN RIVER MOUTH) AND THE RUSSIAN RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH UPSTREAM 100 YARDS TO ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS IS OPEN TO SPORT FISHING, EXCEPT SOCKEYE SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JULY 15 – AUGUST 20];

(E) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM JUNE 11 – AUGUST 20, THE WATERS OF THE KENAI RIVER NEAR THE CONFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER, FROM THE POWERLINE CROSSING ON THE KENAI RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE FERRY CROSSING, ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR SOCKEYE SALMON];

(F) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM JUNE 11 – AUGUST 20, THE WATERS OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 600 YARDS DOWNSTREAM FORM THE FALLS ARE OPEN SPORT FISHING FOR SOCKEYE SALMON];

(G) from **May 1 – June 10** [JUNE 11 – JULY 31], and from **August 1 – August 31** [SEPTEMBER 1 – MAY 1], the Upper Russian (Goat) Creek upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards from its confluence with Upper Russian Lake;

(H) from **May 1 – June 10, the flowing waters of** [JUNE 11 – MAY 1] Jean Lake Creek, **Juneau Creek, the Russian River upstream of a point approximately 100 yards from its confluence with the Kenai River, excluding Upper Russian (Goat) Creek,** and Hidden Lake Creek;

(I) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM JULY 1-SEPTEMBER 30, THE WATERS OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH UPSTREAM TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 600 YARDS DOWNSTREAM FORM THE FALLS ARE OPEN SPORT FISHING FOR COHO SALMON];

5 AAC 57.122(5) is amended to read:

(5) all tributaries to the Middle Section of the Kenai River, except a section of the Russian River drainage downstream [UPSTREAM] of an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the falls are [IS] closed to sport fishing for salmon;

5 AAC 57.122 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(10) the following waters of the Middle Section of Kenai River drainage are open to sport fishing, only as follows:

(A) from July 15 – April 30, the Russian River Sanctuary, including waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located just downstream of the ferry crossing on the Kenai River to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately 300 yards upstream of the public boat launch at Sportsman's Landing (including the waters around the upstream end of the island near the Russian River mouth) and the Russian River from its mouth upstream 100 yards to ADF&G regulatory markers is open to sport fishing, except sockeye salmon may be taken only from July 15 – August 20;

(B) from June 11 – August 20, the waters of the Kenai River near the confluence of the Russian River, from the powerline crossing on the Kenai River upstream to the Ferry Crossing, are open to sport fishing for sockeye salmon;

(C) from June 11 – August 20, the waters of the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the falls are open to sport fishing for sockeye salmon;

(D) from July 1 – September 30, the waters of the Russian River from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 600 yards downstream from the falls are open to sport fishing for coho salmon.

**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-F16-137)

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**PROPOSAL 78 – 5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Align the closure start date for all the tributaries of the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area with the start dates proposed for the king salmon sanctuaries and the start dates proposed for the rainbow trout spawning closure. In addition, create the same fishing season in all the tributaries of the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage area, as follows:

5 AAC 57.123 is amended to read:

(1) Kenai Lake from the Sterling Highway Bridge at the outlet, upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one-quarter mile upstream, is open to sport fishing only from **June 11 – April 30** [JUNE 11 – MAY 1];

...  
(3) **repealed** / /2017 [IN ALL FLOWING WATERS OF THE KENAI LAKE DRAINAGE, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT IS ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED];

...  
**(9) the following waters of the Upper Section of the Kenai River drainage are closed to sport fishing, as follows:**

**(A) from May 1 – June 10, all flowing waters of the Upper Section of the Kenai River drainage;**

**(B) from May 1 – June 10 and from September 15 – October 31, the Quartz Creek drainage upstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge, including Devils Creek, Johns Creek, Jerome Creek, Summit Creek, and Slate Creek, and the South Fork of the Snow River.**

**Note: Paragraphs (6) – (8) are repealed by this proposal.**

[(6) CRESCENT CREEK DRAINAGE, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1;

(B) IN FLOWING WATERS, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED;

(C) IN CRESCENT LAKE, FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 20 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(D) FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1, THE CRESCENT CREEK DRAINAGE, EXCEPT CRESCENT LAKE, IS OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT; THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT IS ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY, AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(E) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS TWO FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;

(7) QUARTZ CREEK DRAINAGE, EXCLUDING CRESCENT CREEK, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED;

(B) CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON;

(C) OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR FINFISH OTHER THAN SALMON, FROM ITS MOUTH TO THE UPSTREAM SIDE OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE, FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1;

(D) FROM JUNE 11 – SEPTEMBER 14, AND FROM NOVEMBER 1 – MAY 1, UPSTREAM OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE, INCLUDING DEVILS CREEK, JOHNS CREEK, JEROME CREEK, SUMMIT CREEK, AND SLATE CREEK, IS OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR FINFISH OTHER THAN SALMON;

(E) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN IS ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(F) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT IS ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(8) SNOW RIVER DRAINAGE, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED;

(B) CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON;

(C) THE SOUTH FORK OF THE SNOW RIVER IS OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR FINFISH OTHER THAN SALMON FROM JUNE 11 – SEPTEMBER 14, AND FROM NOVEMBER 1 – MAY 1;

(D) THE REMAINDER OF THE SNOW RIVER DRAINAGE, NOT SPECIFIED IN (C) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IS OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR FINFISH OTHER THAN SALMON FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1;

(E) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN IS ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(F) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT IS ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER

IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED.]

**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-F16-138)  
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**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)  
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**PROPOSAL 80 – 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.; 5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.; and 5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.** Align gear restrictions for Kenai River tributaries, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121(1) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

**(K) in all tributaries to the Lower Section, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure, with a gap between point and shank of three-eighths inch or less, may be used;**

5 AAC 57.122(4)(G) is repealed:

(4) the following sport fishing gear restriction apply:

(G) **repealed** / **2017** [IN HIDDEN LAKE CREEK, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED];

5 AAC 57.123(4)(C) is amended to read:

(4) from January 1 – December 31,

...  
(C) in the flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainage, including waters of Kenai Lake within one-quarter mile radius of all inlet streams, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure, with a gap between point and shank of three-eighths inch or less, may be used;

**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-F16-140)  
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**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)  
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**PROPOSAL 82 – 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Amend Kasilof River early-run king salmon possession requirements, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8)(A)(iii) is amended to read:

(8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustamena Lake and its tributaries:

(iii) a person may not possess a king salmon that has been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in a manner that prevents the determination that the fish is a hatchery king salmon, until the fish is permanently offloaded from the vessel if the fish was taken from a vessel **and has moved more than 100 yards away from waters open to sport fishing for king salmon in the Kasilof River drainage** or permanently transported away from the fishing site if the fish was taken from the riverbank **and has moved more than 100 yards away from waters open to sport fishing for king salmon in the Kasilof River drainage;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal supports enforcement of regulations that prohibit the harvest of naturally-produced king salmon where only

hatchery-produced king salmon may be retained. It creates a regulation for the Kasilof River that is identical to existing regulations in other waters of the Kenai Peninsula that are stocked by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-145)  
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**PROPOSAL 83 – 5 AAC 56.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area; and 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.** Repeal gear regulations for northern pike, as follows:

5 AAC 56.120(7) is repealed:

(7) **repealed** / / **2017** [NORTHERN PIKE MAY BE TAKEN FROM JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31; NO, BAG, POSSESSION, OR SIZE LIMIT; NORTHERN PIKE MAY BE TAKEN

(A) NORTHERN PIKE MAY BE TAKEN BY SPEAR AND BOW AND ARROW; THE ARROW MUST HAVE A BARBED TIP AND BE ATTACHED BY A LINE TO THE BOW; FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, ‘BOW’ MEANS A LONG BOW, RECURVE BOW, COMPOUND BOW, AND CROSSBOW;

(B) WITH TWO HOOKS PER LINE WHEN FISHING THE ICE AND IF BOTH HOOKS ARE ATTACHED TO THE SAME SINGLE PIECE OF BAIT];

5 AAC 57.121(1)(I) is repealed:

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

...

(I) **repealed** / / **2017** [IN MACKAY LAKES, DERKS LAKE, SEVENA LAKE, UNION LAKE, AND THE UNNAMED LAKES ON TOTE ROAD, FIVE LINES MAY BE USE TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 57.120(9)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern pike regulations on the Kenai Peninsula are no longer necessary due to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s successful eradication program. Existing regulations may allow anglers to claim they are fishing for pike in lakes subjected to general provisions, which has the potential to become a conservation concern because other species may be harvested. The remaining unnamed lakes on Tote Road can be managed by emergency order, prior to eradication.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-144)  
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**PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 21.330. Gear. and 5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.** Clarify closed waters around the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, as follows:

**5 AAC 21.330. Gear.**

5 AAC 21.330(b)(3)(C) is amended to read:

(3) Central District: set gillnets may be used only in the following waters:

...

(C) waters along the east coast in the Central District

(i) within one mile of the mean high tide mark from the northern boundary of the district to the northern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kenai River at 60° 34.24' N. lat., 151° 18.99' W. long. then offshore on a bearing of 235° to a point one mile from the mean high tide mark **at 60° 33.68' N. lat., 151° 20.65' W. long.**;

(ii) from the latitude of the southern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kenai River at 60° 30.49' N. lat., 151° 16.80' W. long. **offshore approximately one and one-half miles to a point at 60° 30.49' N. lat., 151° 19.84' W. long.** to the latitude of the northern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kasilof River at 60° 24.23' N. lat., 151° 17.66' W. long. **offshore approximately one and one-half miles to a point at 60° 24.23' N. lat., 151° 20.68' W. long.** and only within one and one-half miles of the mean high tide mark;

(iii) from the southern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kasilof River at 60° 22.56' N. lat., 151° 20.98' W. long. **offshore approximately one and one-half miles to a point at 60° 23.97' N. lat., 151° 22.02' W. long.** to the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker at the northern limit of the closed area at the mouth of the Ninilchik River at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 38.90' W. long. **offshore approximately one and one-half miles to a point at 60° 04.02' N. lat., 151° 42.00' W. long.** and only within one and one-half miles of the mean high tide mark;

**5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.**

5 AAC 21.350(b)(3) and (4) are amended to read:

(b) Central District

...

(3) Kenai River: waters enclosed by a line from the southern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kenai River at 60° 30.49' N. lat., 151° 16.80' W. long. to **a point approximately one and one-half miles offshore at 60° 30.49' N. lat., 151° 19.86' W. long. to a point at 60° 30.99' N. lat., 151° 19.69' W. long. to the Coast Guard channel marker 1 KE located at 60° 31.30' N. lat., 151° 20.50' W. long. to a point at 60° 33.31' N. lat., 151° 19.78' W. long. to a point approximately one mile offshore at 60° 33.66' N. lat., 151° 20.66' W. long.** to the northern ADF&G regulatory marker at the mouth of the Kenai River at 60° 34.24' N. lat., 151° 18.99' W. long.; [AND, IN THE AREA BETWEEN A LINE BEARING 235° FROM THE NORTHERN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AND THE KENAI RIVER MOUTH, THOSE WATERS WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE MEAN HIGH TIDE MARK AND, IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER AND THE KENAI RIVER MOUTH, THOSE WATERS WITHIN ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES OF THE MEAN HIGH TIDE MARK];



(4) Kasilof River: **waters enclosed by a line** from the southern ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60° 22.56' N. lat., 151° 20.98' W. long. to **a point approximately one and one-half miles offshore at 60° 23.97' N. lat., 151° 22.02' W. long. to a point approximately one and one-half miles offshore at 60° 24.23' N. lat., 151° 20.68' W. long. to** [THE LATITUDE OF] the northern ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60° 24.23' N. lat., 151° 17.66' W. long. [AND WITHIN ONE STATUTE MILE OF THE RIVER TERMINUS];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current closed waters descriptions for the Kenai and Kasilof rivers are vague and difficult to interpret by fishermen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game personnel, and enforcement officers. This can lead to unintentional violations by fishermen and difficulty in enforcing and prosecuting closed waters violations. The purpose of this proposal is to simplify the description of closed waters around the mouths of the Kenai and Kasilof rivers in order to make this area more enforceable and to aid fishermen in their efforts to comply with these regulations. This will result in no significant change to the current closed areas around the river mouths.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-149)  
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