

**PROPOSAL 189**

**5 AAC 77.XXX. Personal use aquatic plant fishery.**

Provide regulatory provisions necessary to harvest aquatic plants for personal use within the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game nonsubsistence areas in the Southeast Alaska Area, as follows:

**Aquatic plants may be harvested by hand for personal use at any time and there are no bag or possession limits except that:**

- (a) within the Ketchikan nonsubsistence area defined in 5 AAC 99.015(1) there are no harvest limits, except that:**
  - (1) along the shoreline adjacent to the Ketchikan road system, the daily harvest and possession limit is 10 gallons of attached aquatic plants.**
  - (2) there is no limit to the harvest of detached aquatic plants on the beach adjacent to the Ketchikan road system.**
  
- (b) within the Juneau nonsubsistence area defined in 5 AAC 99.015(2) the daily harvest and possession limit is 5 gallons of attached aquatic plants, except that:**
  - (1) the shoreline adjacent to the Juneau road system is closed to the taking of attached aquatic plants.**
  - (2) there is no limit to the harvest of detached aquatic plants at the daily high tide line.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations for personal use harvest of aquatic plants stipulate that aquatic plants may only be harvested according to provisions of Chapter 77; however no provisions exist in Chapter 77 for harvest of aquatic plants. Current regulations allow harvest for noncommercial use outside of nonsubsistence areas with no season or bag limit but prohibit (due to lack of provisions allowing it) personal use harvesting of aquatic plants within the nonsubsistence areas described in 5 AAC 99.015. The cities of Juneau and Ketchikan are located in these areas. Many local residents do not realize there is no provision for personal use of aquatic plants and there is likely significant harvest of personal use kelp of various species occurring illegally.

The Juneau nonsubsistence area is centered on the community of Juneau with a population in excess of 30,000, making it the largest community in the region. The aquatic plant resource is not particularly robust in inside waters around Juneau, likely due to reduced salinity from freshwater run off, and the plant population is subject to overharvest. Provisions of this proposal will allow for enforcement of sustainable personal use kelp harvests.

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

(HQ-F17-111)

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