

PROPOSAL 200

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area and 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Prohibit snagging in all salt and freshwaters along the Juneau road system, with minor exceptions, as follows:

Snagging of sport fish (salmon, trout, char, etc...) is prohibited in all fresh and saltwater along the Juneau Road System, with exception to approved areas when hatchery fish abundance is strong. These excluded areas would include Fish Creek Pond and the beach in front of Wayside Park to from the retaining wall to within the existing boundary line 150 feet of the CBJ Wayside Park Fishing Park. All other waters will be closed to snagging as a method and means.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There has been growing concern of user group conflict between sport groups, mainly between snagging and all other user groups. With the expanded fishing opportunities on the Juneau Road System have seen more clash than before. The method and means of anglers using sport fishing gear (bait, spin, fly, etc...) coexist and work together with etiquette. Anglers using snagging as a method and means focus only on the harvest and forego etiquette, causing conflict to other anglers

In addition to conflict with other user groups, anglers utilizing snagging are searching for the highest quality fish, mainly hatchery. In some areas, such as the Sheep Creek area, anglers trying to snag hatchery silver salmon will unintentionally snag other species such as dolly varden, cutthroat trout, pinks salmon, flounder. All of which are non hatchery native fish. These fish are often discarded as trash and are returned to the water mortally wounded by the heavily lead weighted large treble hooks. Intentionally discarding of mortally wounded game fish is a waste.

This solution gives persons who prefer snagging as a method and means, to have access to hatchery fish for harvest. At the same time it will help curb user conflict. It may also help curtail some of the poaching associated with snagging.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole

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