

**PROPOSAL 66**

**5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.**

Expand waters closed to subsistence harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, as follows:

In order to save approximately 50% of these spawner females, the closed area needs to be extended back to three miles. This still leaves 9 miles upstream, 28 miles downstream, all of Goldstream Creek and almost all of Minto Flats, including the Tolovana and Tatalina Rivers, open to subsistence fishing year round. There is no limitation on the number of fish taken, or their size, in these other areas.

If adopted, the new regulations would include 3 miles instead of 1 mile: 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(F) (modified by ACR01) "in the Chatanika River drainage, from the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately three river miles upstream of the confluence, subsistence fishing through the ice is closed;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Large (over 30"), mature, female spawner pike that concentrate in an overwintering area in the Chatanika River upstream from the confluence of Goldstream Creek and the Chatanika River (known as the Chatanika River Harvest Area) are being overharvested. It is very important to maintain these large fish. The 2017-2018 regulations closed the first three miles to fishing through the ice in order to save approximately 50% of these spawner females, but that closure was reduced by ACR01 to one mile, where almost no fish overwinter per the last study conducted by Fish and Game.

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