PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the 
Tanana Area.
Allow harvest of Arctic grayling in the Delta Clearwater River, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(5) is amended to read:

(5) in the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage, [ARCTIC
GRAYLING MAY BE TAKE N BY CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING ONLY, EXC EPT
THAT FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A PERSON MAY RETAIN ARCTIC
GRAYLING, WITH A] the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is [OF ]one fish, 12
inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be
released immediately;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent of the current 12-
inch maximum size limit was to afford anglers the opportunity to harvest an Arctic grayling while
maintaining the attributes of this fishery. Per the Tanana River Area Wild Arctic Grayling
Management Plan, the Delta Clearwater River is managed under a special management approach
that provides for high catch rates of large fish and a reasonable opportunity to catch a trophy sized
Arctic grayling (i.e. 18 inches). The harvest level of fish <12 inches has been minimal with annual
harvests averaging ~100 fish since implementation of this regulation in 2001. Arctic grayling are
present in the Delta Clearwater River by April and anglers are not provided harvest opportunities
until June. Additional harvest of Arctic grayling <12 inches resulting from this proposal is
expected to be sustainable. Removal of the seasonal closure would also simplify regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-031)
******************************************************************************