

PROPOSAL 63

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, adopt a maximum size limit, and reduce the bag limit, as follows:

We would like to see the board reinstate the 3-mile closure that you put in place during the last in-cycle meeting. We would like to see the board instate a bag limit of 5, of which only one can be over 30". We would also like to see no catch and release, but we realize that this might be difficult if there was a size restriction.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Minto Nenana AC is concerned that the northern pike that overwinter in the Chatanika do not have enough protection from overfishing through the ice. We believe that the large female spawners cannot take this pressure. We are concerned that the few individuals that utilize this fishery could jeopardize the health of the population that others also depend on.

PROPOSED BY: Minto Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-056)

PROPOSAL 64

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, adopt a maximum size limit, and reduce the bag limit, as follows:

Set the ice fishing closure area at two miles and all fish over 30" are returned unharmed with a bag limit of 5 fish. This is not more restrictive than sport fish limits because this is just one small area of the subsistence fishery - the rest of the area is open year round with no limits on size or take.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the overwintering area of the Chatanika River, the existing 1 mile restriction is not acceptable as this area is a critical overwintering spot for female Northern Pike that are capable of spawning. This is a state subsistence fishery area and not a traditional use area. This area has only been subsistence since the mid 90's.

PROPOSED BY: Evan Wheeler

(EF-F18-077)

PROPOSAL 65

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, adopt a maximum size limit, and reduce the bag limit, as follows:

Increase the closure to the first two miles upstream of the Chatanika/Goldstream confluence, with a seasonal bag and possession limit of the first ten fish caught with only two of those over 30". This will don't adversely affect the subsistence fishery since this will adversely affect the Chatanika River Harvest Area - the rest of the Chatanika upstream 10 miles, 28 miles downstream, Goldstream Creek, Minto Flats, and the Tatalina and Tolovana Rivers are still open to subsistence fishing year-round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently changed the regulations from a 3 mile closure in the Chatanika River Harvest Area to a 1 mile closure due to an ACR initiated by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee. This is causing an excessive number of the large spawning fertile females in this area to be harvested.

PROPOSED BY: John Morack

(EF-F18-079)

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.

PROPOSED BY: Marvin Hassebroek

(EF-F18-074)

PROPOSAL 67

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 protect, restore, and promote the long term health of the pike fishery and habitat, and to prevent overfishing and rebuild the stock, several years of 3 mile protection will be required; therefore I propose that we reinstate the three mile restriction.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Fisheries just reduced the new three mile closure in the overwintering area of the Chatanika River Harvest Area adopted in 2017 to one mile. Fish and Game records reflect that there are almost no pike that overwinter in that first mile, and they estimate that approximately 50% of those local fish are upstream between miles 1 and 3. The majority of the fish that are caught through the ice are the large pre-spawning egg-bearing females that need to be protected. It takes 15 to 20 years to grow a 40" pike, and all pike over 30" are female. It seems prudent to return the three mile restriction so that 50% of the stock of large females are protected. It will take several more years for the beneficial effects of the closure to be observed in the affected population. A reasonable opportunity for subsistence fishing is available year-round in the rest of the Tolovana River drainage- this is only a three mile protected overwintering area for the Minto Lakes drainage.

PROPOSED BY: James Dieringer

(EF-F18-084)

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.

Open the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary to subsistence fishing through the ice for northern pike, as follows:

Open all of the Chatanika SHA for subsistence ice fishing. Close the fishery when the ADFG quota for pike has been met. The daily bag limit of 10 northern pike per day, with 20 in possession should remain the same.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A portion of the Chatanika River is closed to subsistence ice fishing for pike in the Chatanika SHA. The closed portion is from the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to the regulatory marker about one mile upstream on the Chatanika River. This diminishes the fishable area and ability to harvest pike for subsistence use.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Moody

(EF-F18-025)

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.

Reduce the northern pike harvest trigger in the Chatanika River drainage from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game marker to the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, as follows:

Decrease the emergency closure in 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(G)(ii) from 1,500 to the number that will maintain an exploitation rate for fish larger than 30" below 10% of the existing population of these large fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The emergency closure limit is unreasonably high for this small fishery for Northern Pike in the Chatanika River Harvest Area. Records show that the majority of the harvest in the winter from this area is large, egg-bearing female pike who spawn in the spring. All pike over 30" are female. Because of this, the number of these large 30"+ female pike are in decline. These large pike are extremely important to the fishery. This is not overly restrictive on the subsistence fishery because, outside this small Chatanika River Harvest Area, subsistence users can fish year round through the ice and in the summer with gillnets, and there are no limits.

PROPOSED BY: Denis and Andree Porchet

(EF-F18-078)

PROPOSAL 70

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Modify the size limit in Fielding Lake to allow retention of lake trout less than 28 inches, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010 (C)(9)(B)

Modify the special regulations, for Fielding Lake as follows:

Lake trout may be taken only from October 1 through August 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish, which must be less than 28 inches in length; all lake trout caught that are greater than 28 inches in length must be released immediately;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2007 a 26-inch length limit was instituted for Fielding Lake, concurrent with a bait restriction. This was based on an allowable yield of 78 fish including a 10% hooking mortality. When you look at the 5-year harvest average and include a 10% hooking mortality of the 5-year catch, the yield has been near the allowable threshold. Without a length limit allowable harvest increases to approximately 200 fish.

The current minimum 26-inch limit concentrates the fishing pressure on the oldest and largest fish which are also the most fecund or fertile, producing the most offspring. Foul hooked fish that are less than 26 inches must be released. If a fisherman is looking for a lake trout to eat, finding one under 26 inches will be more probable.

Regulations in Yukon, Canada have gone to a possession limit under 26 inches, releasing anything longer – or including a protected slot limit.

Removing the 26-inch limit would ensure that harvest/mortality do not exceed prescribed yield targets. Limiting fish harvested to a maximum size limit of 28 inches would protect native brood stock and create a high-quality special management water. Unlike Paxson, Summit and Louise, Fielding is a smaller lake with limited spawning areas, susceptible to over fishing of the larger lake trout.

The benefits are several:

The allowable yield will be substantially higher than the current 78 per year increasing to approximately 275;

the larger more fecund fish important to spawning will be protected and thrive;

The smaller more prevalent caught fish can be kept, if desired for eating;

A high quality “special management water” would be created;

Fishing opportunity for larger fish would be protected.

Other options considered:

Keeping current regulations intact: Several nearby lakes have gone to a 1 fish any size limit and stayed well within allowable yield limits. The difference between Louise, Paxson and Summit lakes is they have much larger populations of lake Trout. Fielding Lake has a significantly smaller acreage and sustainable yield. Preserving the larger spawning fish is important to maintaining a high-quality sport fishery. The existing regulations indicate that we have stayed near the current

allowable yield – a concerning issue for maintaining a healthy population of large fish.

Catch and release only. While many fishermen have moved to catch and release, this would deny fishing opportunity and unnecessary.

Revising the regulation to allow harvest for 1 fish with a bag and possession limit of 1 fish. This significantly increases allowable harvest, increases the chance for fishermen to catch and keep a fish and would allow foul hooked fish to be kept. However, this will allow the most fecund fish to be caught. If fishing pressure increases due to the higher allowable harvest, this very well could impact the number of large fish available to catch in this lake. Releasing fish under 28 inches would ensure a high-quality special management water for the lake trout fishery.

A modified maximum size limit: this is where anglers are permitted to harvest only one fish over the designated size. Essentially a protected slot limit where no fish can be retained. This is more common in lake trout management and may be more acceptable to the angling public. I am not opposed to this option. I think a 32” minimum size (as a starting point) for allowable harvest would be acceptable to me – though not my favorite option. My reasoning here is you don’t need to keep a 30 inch plus lake trout to eat. If you wish to have it mounted it is now quite common to take a couple measurements and a picture for a trophy mount.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz

(EF-F18-024)

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Remove the size limit on lake trout for Fielding Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010 (c)(9)(B)

Modify the special regulations, for Fielding Lake as follows:

Lake trout may be taken only from October 1 through August 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2007 a 26-inch length limit was instituted for Fielding Lake, concurrent with a bait restriction. This was based on an allowable yield of 78 fish including a 10% hooking mortality.

When you look at the 5-year harvest average and include a 10% hooking mortality of the 5-year catch, the yield has been near the allowable threshold. Without a length limit allowable harvest increases to approximately 200 fish.

The current minimum 26-inch limit concentrates the fishing pressure on the oldest and largest fish which are also the most fecund or fertile, producing the most offspring. Foul hooked fish that are less than 26 inches must be released. If a fisherman is looking for a lake trout to eat, finding one under 26 inches will be more probable.

Length limits were removed for several lakes such as Paxson, Summit, Louise, Crosswind and Susitna. The 5-year averages for these lakes indicate that this did not result in a noticeable increase in harvest.

Removing the 26-inch limit would ensure that harvest/mortality do not exceed prescribed yield targets. Regulations would be simplified and prevent possible further restrictions such as catch and release only, denying fishing opportunity.

Other options considered:

Keeping current regulations intact: Several nearby lakes have gone to a 1 fish any size limit and stayed well within allowable yield limits. The existing regulations indicate that we have stayed near the current allowable yield – a concerning issue for maintaining a healthy population of large fish.

Catch and release only. While many fishermen have moved to catch and release, this would deny fishing opportunity and unnecessary.

Revising the regulation to allow harvest under a 28" limit. This is my personal preference (see my other proposal) This would allow the most fecund fish to survive, significantly increase the allowable harvest of the most commonly caught fish and ensure a healthy population of high quality fish.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Birkholz

(EF-F18-023)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Allow catch-and-release fishing only for Arctic grayling on the Chatanika River, as follows:

The last assessment of the Arctic grayling population in the Chatanika River occurred during 2007. If a new Arctic Grayling population assessment can be done now or in the near future and the results show a decline please consider making the Upper Chatanika River strictly catch and release year round for Arctic Grayling - like the Chena River.

This also includes Lower Chatanika River at the Elliot Highway bridge camping area. That area is "fished out" It would very beneficial to consider making that area strictly catch and release for Arctic Grayling also. Try it for 15-20 years and see what happens to the population and sizes of the larger older grayling.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Arctic Grayling population in the Upper Chatanika River between 38 mile and 58 mile (approximate) on the Steese Highway seem to be in a steady decline for the last 10-15 years.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Marks

(EF-F18-060)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Allow retention of Arctic grayling in the Chena River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(3)(B)

...

This proposal would allow a limited harvest of Arctic grayling less than 12 inches from June 1 to July 15 from a marker placed by the department 500 yards downstream of the Nordale Road Bridge to the confluence with the Tanana River including Piledriver Slough. From June 1 – July 15 the Chena River would remain closed to grayling retention above the Nordale Bridge. From July 16 to May 31 the entire Chena River would be closed to all grayling retention. The normal gear restrictions would apply. This regulation will sunset after three years.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Tanana River Management Area.

Retention of grayling in a portion of the Chena River drainage. The Chena River has been catch and release for Arctic grayling since 1991 (by EO and then regulation). The department has conducted virtually no studies on the population of Arctic grayling since 2005. The last stock assessments and abundance estimates are now 10 years old. The department has no funding for new work. The fishery is touted as one of the best “large” grayling streams on the road system and users report large congregations of fish on several stretches of the river.

The Fairbanks AC has supported the restriction to catch and release but it was with the expectancy that the department would keep track of this population so that some harvest of grayling could be allowed without harm to the population. Anglers now concentrate the catch and release fishing at access points. The estimated mortality for the c & r fishery is 5% to 7%. Because a large number of anglers on the lower river are children, visitors and new sports fishermen, some of the fish are treated pretty roughly in the c&r fishery.

Our proposal would allow a very limited harvest. The limits would be both by season, size and bag limit and a sunset to the harvest regulation. The AC would like the department to have some information on the harvest because it has been so long since harvest was allowed, there is no data on the impact of limited harvest to the population. A three year “trial” would give the managers some information to work with. If this waterway is so popular it can be advertised in numerous “fish alaska” type publications it should be studied for the potential for a return to some harvest. There is absolutely no need for the entire Chena River to catch and release forever. For example, the new Fairbanks hatchery can add fish to the system if the population starts to drop again.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-082)

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 TAKEN BY CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING ONLY, EXCEPT 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)

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Repeal the bag limit for northern pike in the Chisana River drainage upstream of the Northway Bridge, as follows:

~~5 AAC 74.010 (c)

[(4) IN THE CHISANA RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM OF THE NORTHWAY BRIDGE, (A) IN ALL LAKES, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 30 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; (B) IN ALL FLOWING WATERS, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 30 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Chisana River drainage is in the upper headwaters of the Tanana River drainage. Most sport fishing can occur only along the Alaska Highway after Northway Junction and before crossing the border to Canada.

The most road accessible northern pike fishing locations are Scottie and Desper Creek that cross the highway, Deadman Lake in the Tetlin NWR, and the Chisana river accessible from Northway village. This regulation seems unnecessary as all other pike fishing in the Tanana River drainage, more accessible to the public, has a bag and possession limit of 5 northern pike. Removing this regulation will simplify the regulations for the northern pike sport fishing in the Tanana drainage and provide additional harvest opportunity. Very few pike are harvested in the drainage and this change should not affect sustainability.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-044)

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Allow a year-round season for northern pike in Volkmar Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(28) in Volkmar Lake, Northern Pike may be taken year round with a bag and possession limit of two fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal: April 20 - June 1 Volkmar Lake closure to allow some opportunity over Memorial week.

Issues: The current April 20 - June 1 closure unnecessarily restricts fishing opportunities for anglers, particularly for the memorial weekend, and unnecessarily complicates the regulations. During the closed period, anglers/cabin owners cannot access the lake until the lake is ice free, which typically occurs during the 3rd and 4th weeks of May after spawning is done. Open water access is by floatplane only, and no one can access the lake between April 20 and when the lake is ice-free. Harvests in Volkmar Lake are very low. In the last ten years (2007-2016), the average harvest was -28 fish, and the average catch was -192 fish. The last abundance estimate was 4,017 Pike > 18 inches. This would result in little or no additional harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-103)

PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Allow sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) is amended to read:

(15) **repealed** / / . [IN LITTLE HARDING LAKE, SPORT FISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS CLOSED;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2013, stocking of rainbow trout was terminated in Little Harding Lake and fishing for northern pike was closed. The intent of these actions were 1) to protect the newly established northern pike population, which was first documented in 2010, and 2) the department believed that a satisfactory rainbow trout fishery could not coexist with a northern pike population. Sampling in 2016 demonstrated that a population of very large-sized rainbow trout was present with an average size exceeding 24 inches. The sampling also identified very good recruitment of northern pike based on observations and catch sampling. Allowing sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake would provide a new opportunity for roadside anglers looking to catch or retain northern pike, and the harvest of northern pike would help to alleviate predation on stocked rainbow trout. There are other stocked lakes in the Tanana Area (Cushman Lake and Bathing Beauty Pond) where northern pike and rainbow trout coexist and support high-use fisheries for both species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-032)

PROPOSAL 78

5 AAC 74.044. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.

Modify gear specifications for the Minto Flats northern pike sport fishery, as follows:

A more sportsman and humane solution would be to use single hooks only for sport fishing in the Minto area. Casting baits can be easily modified to a single hook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Pike in Minto Flats are being caught with large baits, many containing multiple treble hooks, thereby causing serious damage to the fish's mouth during hook retrieval, usually using a pliers. Therefore, the fish cannot feed and will probably end in their demise.

PROPOSED BY: Candace Tucker

(EF-F18-072)

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Dune Lake, as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 74.010 (c)(29)

In stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for Rainbow Trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked Salmon, and Arctic Grayling is 10 Salmon, and 5 other fish, of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Dune Lake, the bag and possession limit for Rainbow Trout, landlocked Salmon, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, and Arctic Grayling, combined, is five fish, of which only one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length. This restrictive harvest was based on a desire for Dune to grow bigger fish. As harvests have declined and stocking numbers are up, fish are not growing as big and the vast majority of the stocked fish die within a couple of years without being utilized. All Silvers die the summer after reaching 12-16 inches. Managing Dune similar to other stocked lakes will simplify the regulations and likely produce more trophy fish while increasing harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-100)

PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Koole Lake, as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 74.010 (c)(29)

In stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for Rainbow Trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked Salmon, and Arctic Grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Koole Lake, the bag and possession limit for Rainbow Trout, landlocked Salmon, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, and Arctic Grayling, combined, is five fish, of which only one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length. This restrictive harvest was based on a desire for Koole to grow bigger fish. As harvests have declined and stocking numbers are up, fish are not growing as big and the vast majority of the stocked fish die within a couple of years without being utilized. Managing Koole the same as other stocked lakes will simplify the regulations and likely produce more trophy fish while increasing harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-104)

PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit of salmon, other than king salmon, in the Tanana River Area, as follows:

Allow the harvest of 3 of each species of "other Salmon" instead of a combined limit of 3.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently if one is fishing in an area with both Silvers and Chum, the combined limit is 3 fish. If it is biologically sound to take 3 Silvers and 3 Chum, an Angler should not have a combined limit and should be able to take 3 of each species if they desire.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-106)

PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.

Allow sport fishing for nonsalmon species in the Toklat River drainage year-round, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(25) is amended to read:

(25) the Toklat River **mainstem** [DRAINAGE] is closed to sport fishing from August 15 through May 15 **between a point one mile upstream from the mouth of Sushana River at 64° 08.45' N. lat., 149° 59.69' W. long., and from a point at 64° 10.81' N. lat., 150° 01.03 W. long., two miles downstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 1993, the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan (5 AAC 01.249) was implemented to help rebuild the stock. In 2004, Toklat River Fall chum salmon were removed as a management concern, and a BEG of 15,000 – 33,000 was established. By 2007, the Board of Fisheries determined that Yukon River chum salmon (which incorporated Toklat River fall chum salmon) no longer met the criteria of a yield concern, and in 2010 the Toklat River chum salmon BEG was removed from the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. Since 2003, returns of Yukon River fall chum salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal (300,000 fish) every year, and exceeded the upper bound (600,000) 10 out of 14 years. Currently, the closed period (August 15 – May 15) to sport fishing of all nonsalmon species within the Toklat River drainage is no longer necessary. The intent of the closure was to protect spawning habitat from motorized and foot traffic where the RS2477 Kobi-McGrath trail crosses the Toklat River, and where the greatest concentration of spawning fall chum salmon occurs within the Toklat River drainage. This area will remain protected under the proposed new regulations. The current regulation precludes sport fishing opportunity for resident species such as northern pike and Arctic grayling. The level of sport fishing effort is minimal and would present no sustainability concerns for salmon or nonsalmon species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-035)

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 01.249. Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.

Allow sport and subsistence fishing for nonsalmon species in the Toklat River drainage year-round, as follows:

5 AAC 01.249(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) from August 15 through May 15, the Toklat River **mainstem** [DRAINAGE] is closed to sport and subsistence fishing **for salmon between a point one mile upstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek at 64° 08.45' N. lat., 149° 59.69' W. long., and from a point at 64° 10.81' N. lat., 150° 01.03' W. long., two miles downstream from the mouth of Sushana Creek;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 1993, the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Plan (5 AAC 01.249) was implemented to help rebuild the stock. In 2004, Toklat River Fall chum salmon were removed as a management concern, and a BEG of 15,000 – 33,000 was established. By 2007, the Board of Fisheries determined that Yukon River chum salmon (which incorporated Toklat fall chum salmon) no longer met the criteria of a yield concern, and in 2010 the Toklat River chum salmon BEG was eliminated from the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan*. Since 2003, returns of Yukon River fall chum salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the escapement goal (300,000 fish) every year, and exceeded the upper bound (600,000) 10 out of 14 years. Currently, the closed period (August 15 – May 15) to sport and subsistence fishing of all nonsalmon species within the Toklat River drainage is no longer necessary. The intent of the closure was to protect spawning habitat from motorized and foot traffic where the RS2477 Kobi-McGrath trail crosses the Toklat River, and where the greatest concentration of spawning fall chum salmon occurs within the Toklat River drainage. This area will remain protected under the proposed new regulations. The current regulation precludes subsistence and sport fishing opportunity for resident species such as northern pike and Arctic grayling. The level of fishing effort is minimal and would present no sustainability concerns for salmon or nonsalmon species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-036)

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.

Repeal the Tanana River Area wild rainbow trout regulation, as follows:

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

(5) **repealed** / / / [RAINBOW TROUT: THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS 10 FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current sport fishing regulations for the Tanana River drainage include a general bag and possession limit for wild rainbow trout. Many anglers, particularly those new to Alaska, are unaware that rainbow trout are not native to the Tanana River drainage. The department regularly stocks nonnative rainbow trout into lakes which are under the stocked waters regulations. In stocked waters, the background regulation is 10 fish in combination – only one of which may be 18 inches or longer. Repealing the wild rainbow trout regulation would reduce confusion for anglers who inadvertently believe rainbow trout in lakes are native, and eliminate anglers confusing wild rainbow trout bag, possession, and size limits with stocked waters regulations. In 2017, 92 lakes within the Tanana River drainage were stocked, and 86 of these were stocked exclusively with rainbow trout.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-034)

PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(29) is amended to read:

(29) in stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, and Arctic grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, "stocked waters" include Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake, Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Big "D" Pond, Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, Cather's Lake, Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, CHSR 56.0 Mile Pit, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, Cushman Lake, Dick's Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Donnelly Lake, Forrest Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR), "J" Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson Pit #2, Ken's Pond, Kenna Lake, Kimberly Lake, [KIDS FISHING POND,] Last Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, Little Harding Lake, Little Lost Lake, Lost Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, Monte Lake, Monterey Lake, Moose Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Mosquito Creek Lake, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, Nordale #2, North Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, Parks 261 Pond, Paul's Pond, Polaris Lake, Quartz Lake, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson Hwy. 28 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 31 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, Shaw Pond, Sheefish Lake, Sirlin Drive Pond, South Twin Lake, Steese Hwy. 28.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 31.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 36.6 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd. Pond, Triangle Lake, Wainwright #6, Weasel Lake, West Ikskiza Lake, Z Pit (Chena Floodway);

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In conjunction with the Board of Fisheries cycle, the department reviews the stocked waters in each management area. Stocked waters are removed from the stocking plan and corresponding regulations due to a loss of public access, poor fish growth or survival, or insufficient fishing effort. As new waters are identified and included in the stocking plan they are added to the regulations. The proposed language will update the Tanana River Area stocked waters regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-033)
