

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Allow retention of sockeye salmon snagged on the Kenai River, as follows:

The board should remove language forbidding the retention of foul hooked sockeye and leave language forbidding intentional snagging. This would be good for the fish, the fisherpersons, the enjoyment of the sport by more people (i.e. people would get off the river faster), and add more personal safety for adults and children in the associated fisheries.

This would NOT increase unsportsmanlike methods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations forbid the retention of unintentionally snagged sockeye salmon. This results in crowded fishing conditions, fish being tortured (perhaps several times), and I suspect lower spawning and survival rates of snagged fish. The definition of snagging appears to be an issue also which has resulted in unequal enforcement based on the decision of the enforcer. More people on the river means more hooks flying through the air in crowded conditions.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Pratt

(EF-F19-048)
