

*\*Proposal 241 will be heard at the LCI meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the UCI meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 241**

**5 AAC 77.xxx. New section.**

Establish provisions for the personal use of aquatic plants in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 77.528 is created and reads:

5 AAC 77.528. Personal Use Aquatic Plant Fishery. Aquatic plants may be harvested by hand for personal use at any time and there are no bag or possession limits except that:

(a) within the Anchorage Nonsubsistence Area defined in 5 AAC 99.015(3), there are no harvest limits, except that along the shoreline adjacent to the Kenai Peninsula road system, the daily harvest and possession limit is 10 pounds wet weight of aquatic plants, with no limits to the harvest of aquatic plants that have been naturally dislodged from the substrate;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations for the personal use harvest of aquatic plants, (5 AAC 77.001(c)) require that aquatic plants may only be harvested according to the provisions laid out in Chapter 77. There are no provisions in Chapter 77 for the harvest of aquatic plants in Cook Inlet. Current regulations in Chapter 37 allow harvest for non-commercial use outside of non-subsistence areas in Cook Inlet with a daily harvest and possession limit of 10 pounds per day, but prohibit (due to lack of provisions allowing it) personal use harvesting of aquatic plants within the Anchorage non-subsistence area described in 5AAC 99.015(a)(3). The towns of Kenai, Soldotna, Seward and Homer are located in this area. Currently, many local residents do not realize that there is no provision for the personal use harvest of aquatic plants. There is currently a significant harvest of personal use kelp on various species for garden compost and other household uses.

This proposal seeks to provide the regulatory provisions necessary to harvest aquatic plants for personal use, and to provide limited opportunities for the harvest of aquatic plants within the non-subsistence area in the Cook Inlet area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eliza Eller

(HQ-F19-007)

\*\*\*\*\*