

Susitna River Drainage Area (10 proposals)

PROPOSAL 215

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create a Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 61.XXX Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the rivers and streams of the Susitna and Yentna river drainages, to provide management guidelines and tools to the department and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.

(b) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Eastside Susitna management area (Unit 2 of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.

(1) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal for other systems within the Eastside Susitna management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(2) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within established escapement goal for other systems within the Eastside Susitna management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;

(C) Reduce the annual limit;

(D) Close one or more weekends of fishing;

(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(3) If, based on assessment based on available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;

(4) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is assessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.

(5) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is assessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;

(B) Add a 3-day weekend of fishing;

(c) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Talkeetna River management area (Unit S of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.

(6) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Talkeetna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(7) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal, or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within established escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Talkeetna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;

(C) Reduce the annual limit;

(D) Restrict fishing to Saturdays - Mondays;

(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(8) If, based on assessment of available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;

(9) If the in-season escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is accessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.

(C) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;

(D) Allow use of bait;

(10) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is accessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;

(B) Allow use of bait;

(d) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Yentna River management area (unit 4 of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.

(11) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Yentna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(12) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within or above established escapement goal ranges for systems within the Yentna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;

(C) Reduce the annual limit;

(D) Restrict days harvest is allowed to Fridays - Mondays;

(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(13) If, based on assessment of available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Yentna River management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;

(14) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Yentna River management area is accessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;

(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.

(15) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Yentna River management area is accessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;

(B) Allow use of bait;

(e) At any such time that the retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is established the use of multiple-hooks is prohibited.

(a) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adopt a *Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. With the downturn in Susitna/Yentna River king salmon production, from 2013-2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing this sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2019 for the first time in over 40 years the Susitna and Yentna River drainage king salmon fishery was entirely closed by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document actions currently used in management by the Department, showing when specific actions may occur, and also an attempt to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Susitna/Yentna River drainage king salmon management.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-049)

PROPOSAL 216

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create a Deshka River large king salmon optimum escapement goal, as follows:

Deshka River large fish king salmon spawning OEG escapement goal ~~X-XX~~ [13,000-28,000].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Please adopt a large fish Deshka River king salmon spawning escapement goal.

Since 2013 Deshka River, Susitna River drainage, and Northern District king salmon fisheries have been managed based partially on the pre-season Deshka River king salmon return estimate. The Department's most accurate portion of this estimate is for older age-class fish (large fish). In addition, the female component of a king salmon run consists almost entirely of older age-class "large" fish.

Since it is important for quality king salmon spawning escapements to have adequate numbers of female fish, rather than only high numbers of younger male fish, since the Deshka River return is used for management purposes throughout the entire Susitna River drainage and for management of the Northern District commercial set net fishery, and since Deshka River has the best king salmon data set in Northern Cook Inlet, it therefore makes sense, consistent to large fish king salmon goals used elsewhere in Alaska, that a large fish king salmon goal be developed and adopted for Deshka River. Such a goal would increase projection accuracy, and allow for more precise fishery management coinciding with the goal.

The Committee knows the Department develops a BEG or SEG, but the Board may adopt an OEG. The Board previously designated several Northern Cook Inlet king salmon stocks as Stocks of Concern. We respectfully request the most recent and best available science be used to manage Northern Cook Inlet king salmon stocks. NOTE: With ADF&G suggesting a reduced Deshka River goal of 9,000 - 18,000 (kings of any size) - a better precautionary measure would be to ensure an escapement target containing adequate numbers of large king salmon. The department's ability to gauge king salmon size in season should be considered.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-044)

PROPOSAL 217

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create a Deshka River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 61.XXX. Deshka River King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Deshka River, to provide management guidelines and tools to the department, and

to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.

(b) The Department shall manage the Deshka River king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal and to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run.

(c) In the Deshka River,

(1) The seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 61.110 -5 AAC 61.112;

(2) From January 1-July 13, from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River,

(A) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(ii) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(B) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(ii) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;

(iii) prohibit the use of bait;

(iv) Reduce the annual limit;

(v) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(C) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be above the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(ii) allow the use of bait prior to June 1;

(iii) Increase hours to 24 hours per day.

(3) If the inseason escapement projection is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;

(4) If the inseason escapement projection is within the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.

(5) If the inseason escapement projection is greater than the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;

(B) Increase bag and possession limits;

(d) When retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is in effect the use of bait and multiple hooks are prohibited.

(e) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adopt a Deshka River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan. With the downturn in Deshka River king salmon production, from 2013-2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2018 the fishery was restricted to catch and release only fishing for the entire season / before a season ending closure. In 2019 the fishery was closed entirely by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document and record practices currently used in management by the Department, and also to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Deshka River king salmon management.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-045)

PROPOSAL 218

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create an optimal escapement goal for McRoberts Creek coho salmon of 450-1,400 fish, as follows:

Adopt a **McRoberts Creek coho salmon OEG of 450 — 1,400 fish.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adopt a McRoberts Creek OEG for McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek coho salmon. This fishery has some years been the largest producer of sport caught silver or coho salmon in the entire Northern Cook Inlet Management area with past sport harvests numbering over 10,000 coho annually. The current McRoberts Creek escapement goal, in comparison, is minuscule — and the other 3 streams with coho salmon escapement goals in Upper Cook Inlet all have significantly larger goals than the McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek system.

Part of the reason for this disparity in escapement goal size is while index foot surveys are done in two important spawning areas of the McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek system the goal only encompasses the McRoberts Creek portion of the drainage. The Department is currently operating Jim Creek weir which enumerates the entire drainage escapement below the McRoberts Creek fork. The Department has used weir escapements to manage the sport fishery in the recent past — but has yet to develop a weir-based coho salmon escapement goal that encompasses the entire Jim Creek drainage. A solid precautionary management approach would be to maintain the McRoberts Creek goal, at the current level as a board adopt OEG, until such time as the Department makes public a weir-based coho salmon escapement goal for the entire Jim Creek drainage.

It should be pointed out that the McRoberts Creek goal is a post season number not available for inseason management, but important, nonetheless, in measuring Jim Creek coho salmon sustainability.

PROPOSAL 219

5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.

Create a Little Susitna River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 60.XXX. Little Susitna River King Salmon Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Little Susitna River to provide management guidelines and tools to the department and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.

(b) The Department shall manage the Little Susitna River king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal and to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run. The department shall initiate management of the sport fishery for king salmon in the Little Susitna River based on run sizes of immediate past years and other available abundance indices while minimizing the effects of conservation actions for the Susitna River on the Little Susitna River.

(c) In the Little Susitna River.

(1) The seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 60.120 -5 AAC 60.122;

(2) From January 1 - July 13, from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway,

(A) If pre-season, the run is anticipated to be below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(ii) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(B) If the pre-season, the run is anticipated to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(ii) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;

(iii) Reduce the annual limit;

(iv) restrict days harvest is allowed;

(v) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(3) If the inseason escapement projection is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;

(4) If the inseason escapement projection is within the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention;

(5) If the inseason escapement projection is greater than the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow use of bait;

(d) When retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is in effect the use of multiple-hooks is prohibited.

(e) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adopt a *Little Susitna River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. With the downturn in Little Susitna River king salmon production, from 2013 - 2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing the Little Susitna River sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2019 for the first time in over 40 years the Little Susitna River king salmon fishery was entirely closed by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document actions currently used in management by the Department, showing when specific actions may occur, and also an attempt to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Little Susitna River king salmon management.

PROPOSED BY: Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-047)

PROPOSAL 220

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Prohibit retention of rainbow trout and the use of bait in the Lake Creek drainage, as follows:

Yentna unit 4 lake creek drainage

Designate the entire Lake Creek drainage as catch and release for Rainbow trout, no retention allowed.

Restrict the use of bait to 1/2 mile above the confluence of Lake Creek and the Yentna River. All areas above the marker 1/2 mile above the confluence would incorporate the same regulations for trout that currently exist 1/4 mile above the outlet of Bulchitna Lake. Allowing the use of bait to the area below the marker during the time frame allowed for the use of bait, would minimize any negative impacts to the commercial lodges and guide services which rely heavily on the use of bait to catch Silver salmon.

On the other hand, the chance to land a trophy Rainbow Trout would be an incentive for many sport anglers. With most Taxidermists utilizing molds and photographs and measurements of trophy fish to reproduce an exact replica of the fish without having to kill the fish to do so. I believe instituting these changes would enhance the number and size of Rainbow trout and protect the resource for future generations. It would also be a positive step for the commercial lodges and guide services, and air taxi operators, if trophy trout were readily available, without incurring the huge expense of a trip to Bristol Bay or western Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To make Lake Creek a designated trophy fishery for Rainbow trout similar to what's been done on the Taluchulitna river. I've been a property owner on Bulchitna Lake since 1987, and the last several years have noticed a severe decline in the number and size of Rainbow trout. Although the waters 1/4 mile above Bulchitna lake are designated catch and release for rainbow trout, the lower Two miles of the river below Bulchitna lake allow for retention of trout. This area receives a lot of pressure due to ease of access, and with the restrictions imposed on the King Salmon fishery, and inconsistent runs of Sockeye and Silver salmon, there is more of a tendency to retain rainbow trout. With the expense involved of getting there via air, or hiring a guide, people want to take something home to justify the expense. During the period July 13 thru August 15 bait is allowed and this contributes to high mortality rates for Rainbow trout even when released, as trout have a tendency to swallow the bait.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Wagner (EF-F19-003)

PROPOSAL 221

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Extend the use of bait to September 11 in Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area sport fishery, as follows:

Amend Unit 2 artificial lure season as follows: (3) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used from September 11 [1] - May 31 and from June 1 - July 13 only unbaited, artificial lures may be used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Please allow sport anglers to fish bait for 10 additional days into September in specific Susitna River drainage Unit 2 waters currently open to bait fishing. When restricted to single-hook artificial lures after August 31, sportfishing effort and harvests plummet, even though harvestable coho salmon remain available. Susitna River drainage sport anglers should be allowed to fish with bait for coho through September 10 in order to more fully utilize this fishery resource.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-042)

PROPOSAL 222

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Allow fishing for resident species on days closed to king salmon fishing in Unit 2, as follows:

5 AAC 61.114 is amended to read:

(1) from January 1 through **July 13**, [THE THIRD MONDAY IN JUNE, AND ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND MONDAY FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS STARTING ON THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE THIRD MONDAY IN JUNE] Unit 2 is open to sport fishing for all finfish species **except for king salmon;** [INCLUDING KING SALMON] [EXCEPT] sport

fishing for king salmon is open only from the third Monday in June, and on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday for two consecutive weeks starting on the Saturday following the third Monday in June;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently fishing for rainbow trout and other resident species is closed in the lower sections of streams within Unit 2 of the Susitna River drainage (Parks Highway streams) on days closed to king salmon fishing. This is a long-standing regulation put in place to prevent king salmon being targeted under the guise of trout fishing on days closed to king fishing. The department issued preseason emergency orders closing streams within this area to fishing for king salmon in 2018 and 2019 to address king shortages. These emergency orders allowed fishing for finfish species other than king salmon on days normally closed in regulation to mitigate lost opportunity to fish for king salmon. The result was 20 additional days of fishing opportunity for trout anglers with few enforcement complaints. This change would result in regulatory consistency with other areas where popular fisheries for both resident fish and king salmon overlap.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-146)

PROPOSAL 223

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Allow more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Susitna River, as follows:

There are several locations in regulations where terminal tackle is restricted to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure. Because there are no negative biological impacts to the rainbow trout populations, I believe that the restriction to terminal tackle, in the regulations cited below should be changed to allow unbaited single-hook, artificial lures instead of limiting it to only one unbaited artificial lure. These regulations are listed below along with substitute language. However, this may not be an exhaustive list of regulations that I recommend to be changed. There may be other regulations that pertain to the Susitna River Drainage areas that should be changed from one unbaited single-hook artificial lure to unbaited, single-hook artificial lures. I suggest changing these regulations also.

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area
(3) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used from September 1-May 31 and from June 1 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(1) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(5)(A) in the flowing waters, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(7)(A) from August 16 - May 14, from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used; in that same area from May 15 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(7)(B) upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(9)(A) in flowing waters only [one] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(3)(C) in the Fish Creek drainage only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(5)(B) only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(4)(B) from January 1 - July 13, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area

(a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the special management areas for rainbow trout described in (b) and (c) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, terminal tackle when sport fishing in various areas during certain times and within the rainbow trout catch-and-release special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage Area is limited to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. Accordingly, the use of a dropper fly is prohibited in these select areas. However, there is no biological reason to prohibit dropper flies in these waters. I would like the Board to address the issue of allowing dropper flies or allowing more than 1 unbaited single hook lure as terminal tackle when fishing in these Susitna Areas and the special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage.

This change in regulation would allow a sport fisherman to use two different flies when fishing for rainbow trout in these waters. I believe that there are no negative biological implications to the rainbow trout population or the individual rainbow trout, except that it might provide more hook-ups for the fisherman. Allowing the use of an additional dropper fly when sport fishing in these waters would benefit the fisherman who would like to use a dropper fly and have no impacts to fishermen who prefer to use only one fly or lure. The current regulations are overbearing and confusing. For example, from currently, from June 1 through July 13, above the Parks Highway in Willow Creek, terminal tackle is restricted to unbaited, single hook lures, while below the Parks

Highway, during the same time period, only one, unbaited single-hook lure can be used. The change in this regulation would provide the same regulation for Willow Creek above and below the Parks Highway. Additionally, the proposed changes in regulations would simplify and coordinate regulations for other streams and lakes within the Susitna River drainage during the period September 1 through July 13, as specified in 5 AAC 61.112; 5 AAC 61.120; and 5 AAC 61.122.

PROPOSED BY: Gene Sandone

(HQ-F19-130)

PROPOSAL 224

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Allow more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the rainbow trout fishery throughout the Susitna River Drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow.

There are several locations in regulations where terminal tackle is restricted to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure. Because there are no negative biological impacts to the rainbow trout populations, I believe that the restriction to terminal tackle, in the regulations cited below should be changed to allow unbaited single-hook, artificial lures instead of limiting it to only one unbaited artificial lure. These regulations are listed below along with substitute language. However, this may not be an exhaustive list of regulations that I recommend to be changed. There may be other regulations that pertain to the Susitna River Drainage areas that should be changed from one unbaited single-hook artificial lure to unbaited, single-hook artificial lures. I suggest changing these regulations also.

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(3) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used from September 1 - May 31 and from June 1 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(1) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

- (5)(A) in the flowing waters, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;
- (7)(A) from August 16 - May 14, from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used; in that same area from May 15 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;
- (7)(B) upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;
- (9)(A) in flowing waters only [one] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

- (3)(C) in the Fish Creek drainage only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;
- (5)(B) only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

- (4)(B) from January 1 - July 13, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area (a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the special management areas for rainbow trout described in (b) and (c) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, terminal tackle when sport fishing in various areas during certain times and within the rainbow trout catch-and-release special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage Area is limited to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. Accordingly, the use of a dropper fly is prohibited in these select areas. However, there is no biological reason to prohibit dropper flies in these waters. I would like the Board to address the issue of allowing dropper flies or allowing more than 1 unbaited single hook lure as terminal tackle when fishing in these Susitna Areas and the special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage.

This change in regulation would allow a sport fisherman to use two different flies when fishing for rainbow trout in these waters. I believe that there are no negative biological implications to the rainbow trout population or the individual rainbow trout, except that it might provide more hook-ups for the fisherman. Allowing the use of an additional dropper fly when sport fishing in these waters would benefit the fisherman who would like to use a dropper fly and have no impacts to fishermen who prefer to use only one fly or lure. The current regulations are overbearing and confusing. For example, from currently, from June 1 through July 13, above the Parks Highway in Willow Creek, terminal tackle is restricted to unbaited, single hook lures, while below the Parks Highway, during the same time period, only one, unbaited single-hook lure can be used. The change in this regulation would provide the same regulation for Willow Creek above and below the Parks Highway. Additionally, the proposed changes in regulations would simplify and coordinate regulations for other streams and lakes within the Susitna River drainage during the period September 1 through July 13, as specified in 5 AAC 61.112; 5 AAC 61.120; and 5 AAC 61.122.

PROPOSED BY: Gene Sandone

(EF-F19-107)
