

Provisional Subsistence Fishery Policy

For Iliamna Lake and Lower Kvichak River Drainage

See 77-27A-FB
77-58-FB

It is the objective of this policy to allow the traditional subsistence fishery of the area to continue in a manner that will provide adequate amounts of fish for local consumption with the minimum amount of regulatory restrictions while reducing the gill net catch of rainbow trout.

Rainbow trout populations of the area are subject to overharvest by the use of gill nets due to their limited number, slow growth, and their tendency to concentrate before and during spawning migrations.

The subsistence gill net fishery should harvest those salmon species which occur in large numbers and under-utilized resident species, such as char.

Therefore the subsistence fishery will be regulated according to the following guidelines:

1. All subsistence fishermen are required by Board regulation to have a current subsistence permit in their possession (5 AAC 06.980).
2. All lakes of the drainage shall be open to subsistence gill net fishing year-round without restriction as to mesh size. Nets shall not be placed within 1/4-mile of stream mouths except during the period July 1 through August 30.
3. Streams of the area are open to subsistence gill net fishing from July 1 through August 30.
4. Net length shall not exceed 25 fathoms in length (5 AAC 06.931).
5. No set gill net may obstruct more than one-half the width of a stream (5 AAC 06.990).
6. No subsistence permits shall be written for rainbow trout, but rainbow trout inadvertently caught may be retained.
7. The staff be allowed to increase or alter the 1/4-mile closed area around specific stream mouths if future research indicates the 1/4-mile restriction is inadequate for protection of rainbow trout.
8. Finally, this policy recognizes significant problems exist in Iguigig, the outlet of Iliamna Lake, and downstream in the Kvichak River where traditional subsistence fisheries are conducted with gill nets. These fisheries shall be allowed to continue until sufficient data can be collected to suggest management methods to determine methods of reducing the gill net take of rainbow trout while allowing the continued harvest of other species.

Signed Gordon Jensen
Gordon Jensen, Chairman of the Board
of Fisheries

Date March 31 1977