

PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area. Prohibit the use of set lines in Grizzly and Jack lakes, as follows:

Add **Grizzly Lake** and **Jack Lake** to the list of lakes in the Tanana River drainage sport fish regulations in which “Burbot set lines may not be used”.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? State sport fish general regulations regarding the use of set lines for burbot are not consistent for a localized group of five lakes which are known to support burbot populations. These lakes are located near Nabesna and the geologic divide between the Upper Copper River drainage and the Tanana River drainage. Copper, Tanada, and Sheep Lakes are in the Copper River drainage, while Jack and Grizzly lakes are in the Tanana River drainage. Access is primarily by snowmachine trails originating from the Nabesna Road. Trails then cross and interconnect these lakes.

General regulations of the Tanana River Area (Jack and Grizzly Lakes) allow the seasonal use of set lines in all but five lakes, whereas, the general regulations of the adjacent Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area prohibit the use of set lines in all lakes (including Copper, Tanada, and Sheep lakes). Fishermen travelling through and among these lakes could easily be confused as to which regulations apply.

Burbot are relatively long-lived and slow growing making them potentially vulnerable to overexploitation in small water bodies. Conservation concerns could arise if sustained trends of increased harvests were to occur on these lakes. Set lines are known to be a highly effective means of catching burbot. Due to conservation concerns, state regulations have banned the use of set lines in all lakes of the adjacent Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Management Area since 1992.

Passage of this proposal will create burbot fishery regulations that are consistent for all lakes of this one localized area that are known to support burbot populations. It will standardize these regulations with those of the management area from which the fishery participants access the lakes. It will also eliminate the incentive of utilizing unattended lines to target slow growing fish populations in the relatively small Grizzly and Jack Lakes.

PROPOSED BY: National Park Service (EF-C15-065)
