

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. and 5 AAC 57.150. Russian River Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Create an archery fishery for sockeye salmon in a section of the Russian River, as follows:

5 AAC 57.150. Russian River Management Plan. Amend the plan to include the following:

5 AAC 57.150(g) (NEW) The Department is authorized to set aside a section of the river (*e.g.*, above the Falls that has not been opened to salmon fishing previously) designated as a bow-fishing only area. For purposes of this provision, "bow-fishing" means that Sockeye salmon may be taken by bow and arrow; the arrow must have a barbed tip and be attached by a line to the bow; for the purposes of this provision, "bow" means a long bow, recurve bow or compound bow. (*See e.g.*, 5 AAC 57.120(9).) A struck fish shall be considered taken and be counted in the bow-fisherman's daily limit. In addition to a valid fishing license, a bow-fisherman must have passed a bowhunter certification course.

The Fisheries Board could further consider amending the following sport fishing sections as follows:

5 AAC 57.120(a)(4)(A)(vi) Sockeye salmon may be taken by bow and arrow in a section of the Russian River as designated by the Department in the Russian River Management Plan. For the purposes of this provision, "bow" means a long bow, recurve bow or compound bow; the arrow must have a barbed tip and be attached by a line to the bow.

5 AAC 57.123 (9) Russian River in a designated area, Sockeye salmon may be taken by bow and arrow in a section of the Russian River as designated in the Department's Russian River Management Plan. For the purposes of this provision, "bow" means a long bow, recurve bow or compound bow; the arrow must have a barbed tip and be attached by a line to the bow.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The sport fishery of bow-fishing should be expanded to include salmon.

Recreational value. More than 21.6 million Americans of all ages enjoy archery. Young and old alike enjoy shooting their bows. Anchorage, Fairbanks, Eagle River, Wasilla, Juneau and Kenai and other communities offer static ranges for the public that are maintained by non-profit archery associations. Those in Southcentral include Screaming Eagle, Cook Inlet Archers, NW Archers, black Sheep (JBER) and Kenai Archers. Other regions have clubs as well : Golden North Archery Association (Fairbanks), Prince of Wales Archery (Thorne Bay), Prince William Sound College-Archery club (Valdez). This underscores the [popularity of archery throughout the state.

The State maintains shooting ranges at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park, Fairbanks Indoor Shooting Range and Hunter Ed Facility and the Juneau Hunter Ed Facility and Indoor Shooting Range. These would likely experience greater use by archers of all ages, a benefit to the youth and adults of our communities.

Educational value. The National Archery in the Schools Program, (NASP) is a Nationwide Youth Archery program developed in Kentucky in 2002. Here in Alaska the program is a joint venture between NASP, the Department of Education and the Division of Wildlife Conservation. Several archery equipment manufacturers and local sportsman’s organizations are also program partners. The program promotes self-confidence, team work, discipline, physical fitness and participation in the life-long sport of Archery. The program provides Archery instruction in a physical education environment to *all* boys and girls grades 4 – 12. Millions of kids across America participate in this great program.

The Division of Wildlife Conservation offers Alaskan hunters opportunities to become certified bowhunters. Bowhunting classes certify more than 800 Alaskan hunters each year. Beginning July 1, 2016, an NBEF/IBEP bowhunter certificate will be required for all big game hunters in Alaska. The Alaska Bowhunter education program meets the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, (NBEF) and International Bowhunter Education Program, (IBEP) certification requirements. Bowhunter education classes are taught by dedicated volunteer instructors who commit valuable time and offer years of experience.

Economic value. To the State: The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act places an 11% excise tax on the sale of archery equipment including bow-fishing gear. This money is shared with Alaska and other states for use in Wildlife Restoration (i.e., building structures or improving lands or waters as wildlife habitat) and basic/enhanced hunter education and safety programs, as well as construction, operation and maintenance of archery ranges for public use. 50 CFR 80.50. In a Clarion newspaper report, the State has received more that \$38 million in Pittman-Robertson funds since 2000. It is submitted that this program could enhance sales of archery equipment – bowfishing as a form of hunting that supports stream enhancement programs - and add an element to the ADFG conservation plan that would help increase the State’s share of the Pittman-Robertson funds.

To the local economy: All major box stores sell archery equipment and larger communities have archery specialty stores. Allowing salmon to be bow-fished would likely increase sales of archery equipment significantly. Most major archery companies sell one or more models of specialty bows designed for bowfishing. Adopting this change in the regulations would likely be economically beneficial to these Alaska businesses and to local economies.

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