

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area. Prohibit use of bait in fresh waters of Kodiak Archipelago from October 1- August 15, as follows:

5 ACC 64.022.(a) (14) Use of bait prohibited in all freshwaters of Kodiak Archipelago from October 1-August 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the issue of bait use in Kodiak freshwaters during salmon and steelhead season. Numerous hooking mortality studies show bait use to be a crucial factor in fish increased fish mortality . This is important because wild King salmon stocks on all Kodiak drainages are a stock of ongoing concern and are they highly responsive to bait. No known steelhead population on Kodiak has more than 8,000 steelhead while most systems have fewer than 500. These fish are also highly responsive to bait, especially during Coho fishing season. In the name of conservation -minded management and in accordance with statewide sustainable trout abundance policy, bait use should be strongly considered in managing of freshwater fish species.

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