

PROPOSAL 76 – 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Align the Kenai River tributary fishing closure start dates with the proposed king salmon sanctuaries and rainbow trout spawning closure start dates, and align all Kenai River tributary closures so they have similar closure periods, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121(2) is amended to read:

(2) the following waters of the Kenai River **drainage** are closed to sport fishing, as follows:

(A) from **May 1 – July 31** [APRIL 15 – AUGUST 15], Slikok Creek, **Funny River, and Killey River;**

(B) from **May 1 – June 10, all remaining** [JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, THE] flowing waters of **the Lower Kenai Section, including Beaver Creek, Soldotna Creek, and in the Moose River upstream of the upper edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge** [UPSTREAM OF ADF&G MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET UPSTREAM FROM ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KENAI RIVER];

(C) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM MAY 2 – JUNE 10, THE FLOWING WATERS OF SOLDOTNA CREEK DOWNSTREAM FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET UPSTREAM FROM ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KENAI RIVER];

(D) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile downstream from the mouth of the Funny River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 200 yards upstream from the mouth of the Funny River, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

(E) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM JUNE 11 – AUGUST 14, THE FUNNY RIVER FROM THE KENAI RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE FUNNY RIVER ROAD BRIDGE;

(F) **repealed** / **2017** [FROM MAY 2 – JUNE 10, THE FLOWING WATERS OF MOOSE RIVER UPSTREAM OF THE UPPER EDGE OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE];

(G) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately three-quarters of a mile downstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

...

(J) from **May 1 – July 31** [JANUARY 1 – JULY 31], the waters in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards downstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 300 yards upstream from the mouth of Slikok Creek, is closed to the taking of king salmon;

(K) from **May 1 – June 10** [MAY 2 – JUNE 10], in that portion of the Kenai River from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one mile upstream from the mouth of the Lower Killey River upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the outlet of Skilak Lake;

...

(M) all tributaries to the Lower Section of the Kenai River, except a section of the Moose River from its mouth upstream to the upstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, are closed to sport fishing for salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted this suite of proposals to provide the board an opportunity to review Kenai River sport fishing regulations and consider changes to simplify and align regulations. Nearly all existing regulations that have dates which trigger general or special provisions to sport fish regulations reference the first, last or middle day of a month. The purpose is to create regulations 1) with consistent dates that encompass biological concerns, and 2) that are easily understood by the public. Regulations have been adopted in the Kenai River Drainage Area over the years for various fisheries based on biological as well as social issues. In many cases dates that start or discontinue regulations for one fishery do not align with regulations for another fishery in the same area. Over time this created regulations that are disjointed, overly complex, and not easily understood by the public. These proposals identify regulations that, taken as a whole, would align dates and waters to simplify regulations without impacting fishery management objectives. Aligning regulations for consistency will improve public communication, decrease regulatory complexity and increase public understanding of the sport fishing regulations in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-136)
