

PROPOSAL 80 – 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.; 5 AAC 57.122. Special provisions and localized additions and exceptions to the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Middle Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.; and 5 AAC 57.123. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Align gear restrictions for Kenai River tributaries, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121(1) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

(K) in all tributaries to the Lower Section, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure, with a gap between point and shank of three-eighths inch or less, may be used;

5 AAC 57.122(4)(G) is repealed:

(4) the following sport fishing gear restriction apply:

(G) **repealed** / **2017** [IN HIDDEN LAKE CREEK, ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED];

5 AAC 57.123(4)(C) is amended to read:

(4) from January 1 – December 31,

...

(C) in the flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainage, including waters of Kenai Lake within one-quarter mile radius of all inlet streams, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure, **with a gap between point and shank of three-eighths inch or less,** may be used;

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-F16-140)
