

PROPOSAL 199

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Increase the bag limit for Dolly Varden on the Juneau road system, as follows:

Proposal: Increase the daily bag and possession limit on the Juneau road system beaches and drainages to four fish. This will allow those who harvest Dolly Varden for the table to enjoy a more reasonable bag limit and be less particular regarding the size of their kept catch.

Proposed language:

5 AAC 47.023(e)(1)(A)(v) the bag and possession limit for Dolly Varden is **four** [TWO] fish;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dolly Varden are abundant in the Juneau area, but bag and possession limits are quite small. This is unnecessarily limiting to shore side anglers who harvest fish for the table but haven't access to the boat accessible marine fishery.

Dolly Varden limits are 10 per day and 10 in possession nearly everywhere in Southeast; on the Juneau road system beaches the limit is 2 per day and 2 in possession. By my experience and the observations of others who fish the Juneau beaches and watersheds, the number of fishermen who harvest Dolly Varden are few, but those who do harvest are typically those who haven't access to the marine fishery by boat. However, they are fishing within sight of boat fisherman who – should they choose – may harvest five times as many Dollies. The reason for this disparate arrangement is unknown to anyone searching for a management objective in the available literature. I have heard that the reason for the small road system limit may be to eliminate the need to manage the fishery at all – the limit is so small that no concern need be exerted to maintain a harvestable population. If so, that is an abdication of responsibility by the Department and an arbitrary limit on fishermen in Juneau who may be providing for their families by harvesting the fish to which they have access without a boat. It also results in an incentive for those who do harvest to release many fish because, with a two fish limit, one wants to maximize the bag. This undoubtedly results in many fish that may be mortally wounded being released.

PROPOSED BY: Verne Skagerberg

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