

PROPOSAL 204

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.

Amend bag limit and season provisions and establish an annual limit for sockeye salmon in Windfall Creek, as follows:

I recommend that with the strong sockeye stock and if escapement goal are reached, Windfall Creek goes to a harvest tag system where anglers can harvest up to their yearly allowance in a single day. Where the creek will be closed the June 1st through Aug 1 with the exception on Tuesday-Thursday and Sat-Sun in the month of June. This will give the creek Mondays and Fridays for safe fish passage in the month of June.

For example, if ADF&G Area Biologist find the run can handle a 3 fish annual harvest per angler, then the season will be as follows: Windfall Creek will be open to fishing in the month of June with the exception of Mondays and Fridays. The creek will be closed to all sport fishing from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on those days. Anglers are allowed 3 sockeye per day with a total annual limit of 3 fish. Harvest must be recorded on your fishing license. Anglers may not sport fish for sockeye salmon once their harvest limit has been reached.

Opening the creek to a limited harvest with more allowable fishing days would help spread out the fishing pressure and crowding issues currently seen under the current regulations. It should also allow for minimal escapement needed to keep the run at healthy stock levels.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Background: Currently the outlet creek of Windfall Lake is Juneau's only roadside sockeye fishery. By Emergency Order, Windfall Creek is open to fishing for sockeye salmon every Saturday and Wednesday in the month of June. There is a one fish per day/one in possession harvest allowance when the stock allows. Because it is the only roadside sport fishery for sockeye in Juneau, the small stream sees excessive crowding on the days that it open. This can cause user conflict and "hole hogging" as the fish tend to sit in only a few small locations near the creek mouth.

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