

PROPOSAL 197

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

Simplify current freshwater sport fishing regulations for king salmon in freshwater drainages of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(g)(10) is amended to read:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(10) in the freshwater drainages that drain into the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, described in 5 AAC 47.021(g)(1),

(A) the bag **and possession** limit for king salmon, [28 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH,] is **ten** [FIVE] fish, **no size limit; and**

(B) **repealed / /**; THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR KING SALMON, LESS THAN 28 INCHES IN LENGTH, IS FIVE FISH; AND]

(C) a king salmon taken by a nonresident does not count towards the nonresident annual limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wild king salmon stocks are not present in the freshwater drainages of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area. Liberal king salmon bag and possession limits in these drainages provide incentive and opportunity for anglers to harvest surplus hatchery fish that have strayed. The current regulatory separation between allowed size categories (five king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and five fish less than 28 inches in length) are not biologically necessary and add unnecessary regulatory complexity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-126)

PROPOSAL 198

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.

Amend the open season for Dolly Varden in Auke Bay, as follows:

This regulation currently reads as follows: "In the waters of Auke Bay, east of a line from Waydelich (Wadleigh) Creek to and ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile south of the mouth of Auke Creek, Dolly Varden may be taken only from June 1 - March 31"

I would like the Board to amend the relevant part of this regulation to read: "south of the mouth of Auke Creek, Dolly Varden may be taken only from July 1 - April 30"

The proposed change to this regulation simply shifts the closed season in order to allow local Dolly sport fishing to occur in May and June. The existing and proposed regulation both keep the waters closed for 2 months; the proposed simply shifts the period when Dolly fishing may occur from April and May, to May and June.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a very healthy population of Dolly Varden in the area defined by this regulation. There is no heavy sport fishing pressure on Dolly Varden in this area. Auke Lake feeds Auke Creek and Dolly Varden are the major predator of salmon fry migrating out of Auke Lake and Auke Creek, where there is a NMFS salmon hatchery. The closure authorized by the existing regulation prohibits Dolly fishing when there are Dolly Varden present in the defined waters; before and after April and May, there are no Dolly Varden present at all, because there is nothing for them to prey on. Changing the regulation to allow Dolly Varden fishing in May and June would give sport anglers like me a chance to actually take our kids there to actually try to catch a Dolly.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Weyhrauch

(EF-F17-001)

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

(EF-F17-032)

PROPOSAL 200

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.

Prohibit snagging in all salt and freshwaters along the Juneau road system, with minor exceptions, as follows:

Snagging of sport fish (salmon, trout, char, etc...) is prohibited in all fresh and saltwater along the Juneau Road System, with exception to approved areas when hatchery fish abundance is strong. These excluded areas would include Fish Creek Pond and the beach in front of Wayside Park to from the retaining wall to within the existing boundary line 150 feet of the CBJ Wayside Park Fishing Park. All other waters will be closed to snagging as a method and means.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There has been growing concern of user group conflict between sport groups, mainly between snagging and all other user groups. With the expanded fishing opportunities on the Juneau Road System have seen more clash than before. The method and means of anglers using sport fishing gear (bait, spin, fly, etc...) coexist and work together with etiquette. Anglers using snagging as a method and means focus only on the harvest and forego etiquette, causing conflict to other anglers

In addition to conflict with other user groups, anglers utilizing snagging are searching for the highest quality fish, mainly hatchery. In some areas, such as the Sheep Creek area, anglers trying to snag hatchery silver salmon will unintentionally snag other species such as dolly varden, cutthroat trout, pinks salmon, flounder. All of which are non hatchery native fish. These fish are often discarded as trash and are returned to the water mortally wounded by the heavily lead weighted large treble hooks. Intentionally discarding of mortally wounded game fish is a waste.

This solution gives persons who prefer snagging as a method and means, to have access to hatchery fish for harvest. At the same time it will help curb user conflict. It may also help curtail some of the poaching associated with snagging.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole

(EF-F17-085)

PROPOSAL 201

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.

Allow catch-and-release only in the Juneau vicinity Dredge Lakes area, as follows:

In all waters within the Dredge Lakes area. Catch and Release only. No possession of sport fish or bait in the area is permitted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ever increasing poor quality sport fishing in the Dredge Lake Area, Juneau, AK. Due to lack of fish and high fish pressure.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Soltys (HQ-F17-015)

PROPOSAL 202

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.

Allow only single, barbless hooks on artificial lures in the Dredge Lakes area, as follows:

In all waters within the Dredge Lakes area, only single barbless hooks on artificial lures are permitted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ever increasing poor quality sport fishing in the Dredge Lake Area, Juneau, AK. due to lack of fish and high fishing pressure.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Soltys (HQ-F17-016)

PROPOSAL 203

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.

Rescind the salmon sport fishing closure in Sheep Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023 (e)(l)(J) is amended to read:

(e) In the Juneau vicinity:

(1) in all drainages crossed by the Juneau City and Borough road system,

(J) Auke Nu Creek, Kowee Creek on Douglas Island, [SHEEP CREEK], and Waydelich Creek (Wadleigh Creek) are closed to sport fishing for salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The salmon fishing closure in Sheep Creek is no longer necessary. This closure was established to protect hatchery broodstock. Recently the Sheep Creek hatchery facility was removed and the site is no longer used for broodstock collection making the closure unnecessary. This action will provide additional fishing opportunity and simplify regulation by removing an unnecessary regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-121)

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.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cole (EF-F17-087)

PROPOSAL 205

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.

Prohibit multiple and barbed hooks in the Tsiu River drainage, as follows:

(b)(x) In the Tsiu drainage area barbed and multiple hooks, lures prohibited for all sport fishing in fresh water.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the Tsiu river go single, barbless hooks for all sport fishing for Salmon in fresh water. It would help to eliminate the waste of a valuable resource.

PROPOSED BY: Harold Perantie (EF-F17-002)
