

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.

Reduce the northern pike harvest trigger in the Chatanika River drainage from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game marker to the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, as follows:

Decrease the emergency closure in 5 AAC 01.244(b)(2)(G)(ii) from 1,500 to the number that will maintain an exploitation rate for fish larger than 30" below 10% of the existing population of these large fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The emergency closure limit is unreasonably high for this small fishery for Northern Pike in the Chatanika River Harvest Area. Records show that the majority of the harvest in the winter from this area is large, egg-bearing female pike who spawn in the spring. All pike over 30" are female. Because of this, the number of these large 30"+ female pike are in decline. These large pike are extremely important to the fishery. This is not overly restrictive on the subsistence fishery because, outside this small Chatanika River Harvest Area, subsistence users can fish year round through the ice and in the summer with gillnets, and there are no limits.

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