

**PROPOSAL 76**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Allow a year-round season for northern pike in Volkmar Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(28) in Volkmar Lake, Northern Pike may be taken year round with a bag and possession limit of two fish, of which only one fish may be 30 inches or greater in length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Repeal: April 20 - June 1 Volkmar Lake closure to allow some opportunity over Memorial week.

Issues: The current April 20 - June 1 closure unnecessarily restricts fishing opportunities for anglers, particularly for the memorial weekend, and unnecessarily complicates the regulations. During the closed period, anglers/cabin owners cannot access the lake until the lake is ice free, which typically occurs during the 3rd and 4th weeks of May after spawning is done. Open water access is by floatplane only, and no one can access the lake between April 20 and when the lake is ice-free. Harvests in Volkmar Lake are very low. In the last ten years (2007-2016), the average harvest was -28 fish, and the average catch was -192 fish. The last abundance estimate was 4,017 Pike > 18 inches. This would result in little or no additional harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-103)  
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