

PROPOSAL 222

5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Allow fishing for resident species on days closed to king salmon fishing in Unit 2, as follows:

5 AAC 61.114 is amended to read:

(1) from January 1 through **July 13**, [THE THIRD MONDAY IN JUNE, AND ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND MONDAY FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS STARTING ON THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE THIRD MONDAY IN JUNE] Unit 2 is open to sport fishing for all finfish species **except for king salmon**; [INCLUDING KING SALMON] [EXCEPT] sport fishing for king salmon is open only from the third Monday in June, and on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday for two consecutive weeks starting on the Saturday following the third Monday in June;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently fishing for rainbow trout and other resident species is closed in the lower sections of streams within Unit 2 of the Susitna River drainage (Parks Highway streams) on days closed to king salmon fishing. This is a long-standing regulation put in place to prevent king salmon being targeted under the guise of trout fishing on days closed to king fishing. The department issued preseason emergency orders closing streams within this area to fishing for king salmon in 2018 and 2019 to address king shortages. These emergency orders allowed fishing for finfish species other than king salmon on days normally closed in regulation to mitigate lost opportunity to fish for king salmon. The result was 20 additional days of fishing opportunity for trout anglers with few enforcement complaints. This change would result in regulatory consistency with other areas where popular fisheries for both resident fish and king salmon overlap.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-146)
