

PROPOSAL 223

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; 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; and 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Allow more than one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure in the Susitna River, as follows:

There are several locations in regulations where terminal tackle is restricted to one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure. Because there are no negative biological impacts to the rainbow trout populations, I believe that the restriction to terminal tackle, in the regulations cited below should be changed to allow unbaited single-hook, artificial lures instead of limiting it to only one unbaited artificial lure. These regulations are listed below along with substitute language. However, this may not be an exhaustive list of regulations that I recommend to be changed. There may be other regulations that pertain to the Susitna River Drainage areas that should be changed from one unbaited single-hook artificial lure to unbaited, single-hook artificial lures. I suggest changing these regulations also.

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

(3) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used from September 1-May 31 and from June 1 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.116. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 3 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(1) in flowing waters only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(5)(A) in the flowing waters, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(7)(A) from August 16 - May 14, from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 100 yards upstream of its mouth to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used; in that same area from May 15 - July 13, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(7)(B) upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(9)(A) in flowing waters only [one] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.120. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 5 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(3)(C) in the Fish Creek drainage only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

(5)(B) only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area

(4)(B) from January 1 - July 13, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used;

5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area

(a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123 or by an emergency order issued under AS 16.05.060, only [ONE] unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures may be used in the special management areas for rainbow trout described in (b) and (c) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, terminal tackle when sport fishing in various areas during certain times and within the rainbow trout catch-and-release special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage Area is limited to only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure. Accordingly, the use of a dropper fly is prohibited in these select areas. However, there is no biological reason to prohibit dropper flies in these waters. I would like the Board to address the issue of allowing dropper flies or allowing more than 1 unbaited single hook lure as terminal tackle when fishing in these Susitna Areas and the special management areas in the Susitna River Drainage.

This change in regulation would allow a sport fisherman to use two different flies when fishing for rainbow trout in these waters. I believe that there are no negative biological implications to the rainbow trout population or the individual rainbow trout, except that it might provide more hook-ups for the fisherman. Allowing the use of an additional dropper fly when sport fishing in these waters would benefit the fisherman who would like to use a dropper fly and have no impacts to fishermen who prefer to use only one fly or lure. The current regulations are overbearing and confusing. For example, from currently, from June 1 through July 13, above the Parks Highway in Willow Creek, terminal tackle is restricted to unbaited, single hook lures, while below the Parks Highway, during the same time period, only one, unbaited single-hook lure can be used. The change in this regulation would provide the same regulation for Willow Creek above and below the Parks Highway. Additionally, the proposed changes in regulations would simplify and coordinate regulations for other streams and lakes within the Susitna River drainage during the period September 1 through July 13, as specified in 5 AAC 61.112; 5 AAC 61.120; and 5 AAC 61.122.

PROPOSED BY: Gene Sandone

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