

**PROPOSAL 233**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow fishing for fish, other than salmon, in upper Threemile Creek and the Threemile Lake outlet, as follows:

5 AAC 62.122 is amended to read:

(12) Threemile Creek is closed to sport fishing **for salmon** upstream from the Beluga Tyonek Road culvert to Threemile/Tukhallah Lake;

(13) Threemile/Tukhallah Lake is

(A) closed to sport fishing **for salmon** within a 300-foot radius of the lake outlet;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. Pike have been spreading to systems on the west side of Cook Inlet and have had detrimental impacts on systems such as the Threemile Creek Drainage.

The highest density of northern pike occurs in the Threemile Lake outlet and the upper part of Threemile Creek where they predate on the few remaining coho salmon fry and smolts naturally funneled into that narrow area. The area in the vicinity of the lake outlet was closed to all sport fishing to protect spawning sockeye salmon. If open to northern pike fishing, anglers could fish where northern pike densities are highest and potentially assist salmon recovery in this system.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-145)

\*\*\*\*\*