

**Northern Cook Inlet Sport, Personal Use and Subsistence (31 proposals)**

**Northern Pike Fishery General Provisions (2 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 213**

**5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 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; 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 AAC 62.122. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area; and 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 anglers to use 5 lines while fishing for northern pike through the ice, as follows:

5 AAC 60.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

**(x) In Anderson Lake, Figure Eight Lake, Flathorn Lake, Memory Lake, all Nancy Lake drainage lakes except Nancy Lake, Prator Lake, and Stephan Lake, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately.**

5 AAC 60.122 is amended to read:

[(4)(E) IN ANDERSON LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO TAKE NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(6) FLATHORN AND FIGURE EIGHT LAKES ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(10)(B) ALL NANCY LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA LAKES, EXCEPT NANCY LAKE, ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(14) IN MEMORY AND PRATOR LAKES, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO TAKE NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.110 is amended to read:

(8) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

**(x) in Alexander Creek, Fish Creek (lower Susitna River drainage), Fish Creek (Kroto Slough), Indian Creek, Witsoe Creek, and in Alexander Lake, Amber Lake, Crystal Lake, Donkey Lake, Hewitt Lake, Kroto Lakes, Lady Slipper Lake, Lockwood Lakes, Long Lake, Neil Lake, No Name (Cabin) Lake, Onestone Lakes, Parker Lake, Shell Lake, Shirley Lake, Sucker Lake, Trail Lake, Trapper Lake, Upper and Lower Vern lakes, Whitsol Lake, and Whiskey Lake, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;**

5 AAC 61.112 is amended to read:

[(G) SUCKER LAKE, AND ALEXANDER LAKE ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES WITH BAIT IF

(i) THE FISHING GEAR IS CLOSELY ATTENDED BY THE ANGLER AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; AND

(ii) ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(E) TRAIL, NEIL, TRAPPER, AND KROTO LAKES ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES WITH BAIT IF

(i) THE FISHING GEAR IS CLOSELY ATTENDED BY THE ANGLER AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; AND

(ii) ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(7) IN THE FLOWING WATERS OF ALEXANDER CREEK, FISH CREEK (LOWER SUSITNA DRAINAGE), FISH CREEK (KROTO SLOUGH), WITSOE CREEK, UPPER AND

LOWER VERN LAKES, LOCKWOOD LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.114 is amended to read:

(12) [(F) IN CRYSTAL LAKE, LONG LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.118 is amended to read:

[(10) IN WHISKEY, HEWITT, DONKEY, NO NAME (CABIN), AND ONE STONE LAKES, AND THE FLOWING WATERS OF INDIAN CREEK, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 62.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

**(x) In Chuitbuna Lake and the Threemile Creek drainage, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;**

5 AAC 62.122 is amended to read:

(13)[(C) OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(15) IN CHUITBUNA LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY

ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and can pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. To encourage anglers to harvest northern pike, systems that primarily contain northern pike have regulations allowing anglers to use five lines through the ice. Expanding that list to include the proposed waters may encourage anglers to fish these areas and harvest northern pike.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-147)

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**PROPOSAL 214**

**5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; and 5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area.**

Prohibit live release of northern pike in the Anchorage Bowl and Knik River drainages, as follows:

5 AAC 59.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes; **a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike;**

5 AAC 60.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes; **a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike;**

**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. During the 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, a proposal was passed prohibiting the live release of northern pike in the West Cook Inlet and all units of the Susitna River Drainage, areas where stocks of concern had been identified. However, the remaining waters in southcentral containing northern pike were not included in that proposal. Expanding mandatory retention throughout the southcentral Alaska promotes consistency in regulation between adjacent management areas and reduces predation through pike suppression.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-144)

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*Susitna River Drainage Area (10 proposals)*

## **PROPOSAL 215**

### **5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

#### **5 AAC 61.XXX Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Management Plan.**

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the rivers and streams of the Susitna and Yentna river drainages, to provide management guidelines and tools to the department and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.**

**(b) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Eastside Susitna management area (Unit 2 of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.**

**(1) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal for other systems within the Eastside Susitna management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or**

**(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(2) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within established escapement goal for other systems within the Eastside Susitna management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(C) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(D) Close one or more weekends of fishing;**

**(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(3) If, based on assessment based on available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(4) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is assessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.**

**(5) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Eastside Susitna management area is assessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(B) Add a 3-day weekend of fishing;**

**(c) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Talkeetna River management area (Unit S of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.**

**(6) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Talkeetna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or**

**(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(7) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal, or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within established escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Talkeetna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(C) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(D) Restrict fishing to Saturdays - Mondays;**

**(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(8) If, based on assessment of available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(9) If the in-season escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is accessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.**

**(C) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(D) Allow use of bait;**

**(10) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Talkeetna River management area is accessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(B) Allow use of bait;**

**(d) The department shall initiate management of the sport fisheries for king salmon in the Yentna River management area (unit 4 of the Susitna River) based on the preseason forecast for the Deshka River and other available abundance indices.**

**(11) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of runs below the escapement goal ranges for other systems within the Yentna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or**

**(B) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(12) If the pre-season forecast for the Deshka River projects the run to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal or if other available abundance indices indicate a high probability of inriver runs within or above established escapement goal ranges for systems within the Yentna River management area, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(C) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(D) Restrict days harvest is allowed to Fridays - Mondays;**

**(E) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(13) If, based on assessment of available abundance indices, the inseason projection of escapement at any location within the Yentna River management area is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(14) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Yentna River management area is accessed to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.110 - 5 AAC 61.123;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.**

**(15) If the inseason escapement projection based on available abundance indices at any location within the Yentna River management area is accessed to be greater than the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;**

**(B) Allow use of bait;**

**(e) At any such time that the retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is established the use of multiple-hooks is prohibited.**

**(a) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a *Susitna and Yentna Rivers King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. With the downturn in Susitna/Yentna River king salmon production, from 2013-2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing this sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2019 for the first time in over 40 years the Susitna and Yentna River drainage king salmon fishery was entirely closed by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document actions currently used in management by the Department, showing when specific actions may occur, and also an attempt to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Susitna/Yentna River drainage king salmon management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-049)  
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**PROPOSAL 216**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Deshka River large king salmon optimum escapement goal, as follows:

Deshka River large fish king salmon spawning OEG escapement goal ~~X-XX~~ [13,000-28,000].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Please adopt a large fish Deshka River king salmon spawning escapement goal.

Since 2013 Deshka River, Susitna River drainage, and Northern District king salmon fisheries have been managed based partially on the preseason Deshka River king salmon return estimate. The Department's most accurate portion of this estimate is for older age-class fish (large fish). In addition, the female component of a king salmon run consists almost entirely of older age-class "large" fish.

Since it is important for quality king salmon spawning escapements to have adequate numbers of female fish, rather than only high numbers of younger male fish, since the Deshka River return is used for management purposes throughout the entire Susitna River drainage and for management of the Northern District commercial set net fishery, and since Deshka River has the best king salmon data set in Northern Cook Inlet, it therefore makes sense, consistent to large fish king salmon goals used elsewhere in Alaska, that a large fish king salmon goal be developed and adopted for Deshka River. Such a goal would increase projection accuracy, and allow for more precise fishery management coinciding with the goal.

The Committee knows the Department develops a BEG or SEG, but the Board may adopt an OEG. The Board previously designated several Northern Cook Inlet king salmon stocks as Stocks of Concern. We respectfully request the most recent and best available science be used to manage Northern Cook Inlet king salmon stocks. NOTE: With ADF&G suggesting a reduced Deshka River goal of 9,000 - 18,000 (kings of any size) - a better precautionary measure would be to ensure an escapement target containing adequate numbers of large king salmon. The department's ability to gauge king salmon size inseason should be considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-044)  
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**PROPOSAL 217**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Deshka River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 61.XXX. Deshka River King Salmon Management Plan.**

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Deshka River, to provide management guidelines and tools to the department, and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will**



consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.

(b) The Department shall manage the Deshka River king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal and to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run.

(c) In the Deshka River,

(1) The seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 61.110 -5 AAC 61.112;

(2) From January 1-July 13, from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River,

(A) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or

(ii) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(B) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be within the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;

(ii) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;

(iii) prohibit the use of bait;

(iv) Reduce the annual limit;

(v) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(C) If the pre-season forecast projects the run to be above the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(i) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(ii) allow the use of bait prior to June 1;

(iii) Increase hours to 24 hours per day.

(3) If the inseason escapement projection is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;

(4) If the inseason escapement projection is within the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.112;

(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention.

(5) If the inseason escapement projection is greater than the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

(A) Increase hours to 24 hours per day;

(B) Increase bag and possession limits;

(d) When retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is in effect the use of bait and multiple hooks are prohibited.

(e) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a Deshka River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan. With the downturn in Deshka River king salmon production, from 2013-2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing the Deshka River sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2018 the fishery was restricted to catch and release only fishing for the entire season / before a season ending closure. In 2019 the fishery was closed entirely by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document and record practices currently used in management by the Department, and also to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Deshka River king salmon management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-045)  
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**PROPOSAL 218**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create an optimal escapement goal for McRoberts Creek coho salmon of 450-1,400 fish, as follows:

Adopt a **McRoberts Creek coho salmon OEG of 450 — 1,400 fish.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a McRoberts Creek OEG for McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek coho salmon. This fishery has some years been the largest producer of sport caught silver or coho salmon in the entire Northern Cook Inlet Management area with past sport harvests numbering over 10,000 coho annually. The current McRoberts Creek escapement goal, in comparison, is minuscule — and the other 3 streams with coho salmon escapement goals in Upper Cook Inlet all have significantly larger goals than the McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek system.

Part of the reason for this disparity in escapement goal size is while index foot surveys are done in two important spawning areas of the McRoberts Creek/Jim Creek system the goal only encompasses the McRoberts Creek portion of the drainage. The Department is currently operating Jim Creek weir which enumerates the entire drainage escapement below the McRoberts Creek fork. The Department has used weir escapements to manage the sport fishery in the recent past — but has yet to develop a weir-based coho salmon escapement goal that encompasses the entire Jim Creek drainage. A solid precautionary management approach would be to maintain the McRoberts Creek goal, at the current level as a board adopt OEG, until such time as the Department makes public a weir-based coho salmon escapement goal for the entire Jim Creek drainage.

It should be pointed out that the McRoberts Creek goal is a post season number not available for inseason management, but important, nonetheless, in measuring Jim Creek coho salmon sustainability.

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**PROPOSAL 219**

**5 AAC XX.XXX. New section.**

Create a Little Susitna River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 60.XXX. Little Susitna River King Salmon Management Plan.**

**(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure an adequate escapement of king salmon into the Little Susitna River to provide management guidelines and tools to the department and to provide predictability in management. The intent of the board is that the department will consider the management options listed in this plan prior to considering any other available options for managing the fishery.**

**(b) The Department shall manage the Little Susitna River king salmon sport and guided sport fisheries to achieve the sustainable escapement goal and to provide reasonable harvest opportunities over the entire run. The department shall initiate management of the sport fishery for king salmon in the Little Susitna River based on run sizes of immediate past years and other available abundance indices while minimizing the effects of conservation actions for the Susitna River on the Little Susitna River.**

**(c) In the Little Susitna River.**

**(1) The seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and other special provisions for king salmon are set out in 5 AAC 60.120 -5 AAC 60.122;**

**(2) From January 1 - July 13, from its mouth upstream to the Parks Highway,**

**(A) If pre-season, the run is anticipated to be below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(i) Close the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon; or**

**(ii) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(B) If the pre-season, the run is anticipated to be within or above the sustainable escapement goal the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(i) Prohibit the retention of king salmon;**

**(ii) Establish a maximum size limit of 28 inches as measured from tip of snout to tip of tail;**

**(iii) Reduce the annual limit;**

**(iv) restrict days harvest is allowed;**

**(v) Start the fishery as described in 5 AAC 61.112;**

**(3) If the inseason escapement projection is below the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the sport fishery to the taking of king salmon;**

**(4) If the inseason escapement projection is within the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order,**

**(A) Conduct the season as described in 5 AAC 61.112;**

**(B) Modify the maximum size limit allowed for retention;**

**(5) If the inseason escapement projection is greater than the sustainable escapement goal, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow use of bait;**

**(d) When retention of king salmon is prohibited or a maximum size limit is in effect the use of multiple-hooks is prohibited.**

**(e) Nothing in this management plan is to be construed as diminishing or affecting the commissioner's authority to modify bag, possession, and annual limits and methods and means by emergency order under 5 AAC 75.003.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a *Little Susitna River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. With the downturn in Little Susitna River king salmon production, from 2013 - 2018 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increasingly been managing the Little Susitna River sport king salmon fishery by preseason and inseason emergency orders. In 2019 for the first time in over 40 years the Little Susitna River king salmon fishery was entirely closed by preseason emergency order. This management plan proposal is an attempt to document actions currently used in management by the Department, showing when specific actions may occur, and also an attempt to provide an additional tool (the use of a size restriction in the management of the sport fishery). With such a plan sport users will have the opportunity to examine specific management actions the Department has taken or may likely take in the future when managing this resource. In addition, with a plan in regulation, fishermen and other users will have the opportunity to propose changes or tools to use in future Little Susitna River king salmon management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission/Mike Wood (HQ-F19-047)  
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**PROPOSAL 220**

**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.**

Prohibit retention of rainbow trout and the use of bait in the Lake Creek drainage, as follows:

**Yentna unit 4 lake creek drainage**

Designate the entire Lake Creek drainage as catch and release for Rainbow trout, no retention allowed.

Restrict the use of bait to 1/2 mile above the confluence of Lake Creek and the Yentna River. All areas above the marker 1/2 mile above the confluence would incorporate the same regulations for trout that currently exist 1/4 mile above the outlet of Bulchitna Lake. Allowing the use of bait to the area below the marker during the time frame allowed for the use of bait, would minimize any negative impacts to the commercial lodges and guide services which rely heavily on the use of bait to catch Silver salmon.

On the other hand, the chance to land a trophy Rainbow Trout would be an incentive for many sport anglers. With most Taxidermists utilizing molds and photographs and measurements of trophy fish to reproduce an exact replica of the fish without having to kill the fish to do so. I believe instituting these changes would enhance the number and size of Rainbow trout and protect the resource for future generations. It would also be a positive step for the commercial lodges and guide services, and air taxi operators, if trophy trout were readily available, without incurring the huge expense of a trip to Bristol Bay or western Alaska.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To make Lake Creek a designated trophy fishery for Rainbow trout similar to what's been done on the Taluchulitna river. I've been a property owner on Bulchitna Lake since 1987, and the last several years have noticed a severe decline in the number and size of Rainbow trout. Although the waters 1/4 mile above Bulchitna lake are designated catch and release for rainbow trout, the lower Two miles of the river below Bulchitna lake allow for retention of trout. This area receives a lot of pressure due to ease of access, and with the restrictions imposed on the King Salmon fishery, and inconsistent runs of Sockeye and Silver salmon, there is more of a tendency to retain rainbow trout. With the expense involved of getting there via air, or hiring a guide, people want to take something home to justify the expense. During the period July 13 thru August 15 bait is allowed and this contributes to high mortality rates for Rainbow trout even when released, as trout have a tendency to swallow the bait.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Wagner (EF-F19-003)  
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**PROPOSAL 221**

**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.**

Extend the use of bait to September 11 in Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area sport fishery, as follows:

Amend Unit 2 artificial lure season as follows: (3) in flowing waters only one unbaited, single-hook artificial lure may be used from September **11** [1] - May 31 and from June 1 - July 13 only unbaited, artificial lures may be used.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Please allow sport anglers to fish bait for 10 additional days into September in specific Susitna River drainage Unit 2 waters currently open to bait fishing. When restricted to single-hook artificial lures after August 31, sportfishing effort and harvests plummet, even though harvestable coho salmon remain available. Susitna River drainage sport anglers should be allowed to fish with bait for coho through September 10 in order to more fully utilize this fishery resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-042)  
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**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)  
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**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

(HQ-F19-130)

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**PROPOSAL 224**

**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; 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; 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 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; 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; and 5 AAC 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 rainbow trout fishery throughout the Susitna River Drainage, as follows:

**5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow.**

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

(EF-F19-107)

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Knik Arm Drainage Area (5 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 225**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Limit retention of king salmon in the Eklutna Tailrace to hatchery fish, as follows:

All waters within a 1/2 mile radius of its confluence with the Knik River, and to an ADF&G marker located 2 miles downstream of the confluence:

Add a new section as follows:

**From the above mentioned ADF&G marker to the Knik River confluence with Knik Arm: same methods, means, and bag limit, however, the only king salmon allowed to be retained in these waters are hatchery fish with a healed adipose fin-clip scar.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** With the Eklutna Tailrace/Knik River enhanced king salmon fishery being the primary freshwater location in Northern Cook Inlet Management Area where sport anglers were allowed to harvest king salmon during the 2018 season, and by emergency order at the start of the 2019 season, — the only freshwater location where sport anglers could harvest king salmon in the Northern Cook Inlet Management Area, this is an extremely small location for everyone who would like to catch a king salmon to fish. The entire Tailrace measures about 1/4 mile long and the shallow braided Knik River side-channel below the Tailrace only provides 3 decent anchoring locations with deep enough water to hold king salmon as they migrate upstream between where the Marker should be located and the Tailrace.

During the 2018 season the ADF&G marker, discussed in the regulation booklet, never seemed to be put in place. I fished this area at least 6 times for king salmon in 2018 and never saw the marker — even though I knew and looked, where it had been located years ago.

To accommodate the amount of use this area receives — especially when many other Northern Cook Inlet Management Area king salmon fisheries are closed to sport harvest by emergency order — I suggest increasing the size of the fishing area — but limiting harvest of king salmon in the additional area to hatchery fin-clipped king salmon. All hatchery king salmon releases in this area should be fin-clipped and wire tagged similar to this practice used elsewhere in Upper Cook Inlet. This would provide a much larger fishing area for anglers to spread out in, while also providing for a biologically sustainable fishery, similar but more restrictive, than the Kasilof River/Crooked Creek king salmon fishery.

If adopted this proposal would allow very limited harvest beyond the present area for the first few years, as few of the hatchery king salmon released in previous years, at this location, were fin-clipped. It would also remain to be seen how successful anglers could be at catching king salmon in the deeper and more glacially turbid mainstream Knik River.

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**PROPOSAL 226**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Require retention of coho salmon caught in the Little Susitna River sport fishery, as follows:

**The Little Susitna River coho fishery, below the weir, is restricted to catch and keep, up to the daily bag limit. Coho salmon shall not be released no matter where they are hooked. When the bag limit is caught the angler cannot continue to fish in the Little Susitna River for the remainder of the day. No snagging is allowed.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Reduce the waste of salmon that is caused by the large number of salmon that are caught and released as documented from the high mortalities in the catch and release salmon fisheries. ADF&G reports show there is an average of over 650,000 salmon caught and released in the Cook Inlet sports fishery every year. Catch and release results in hundreds of thousands of salmon wasted each year from either becoming a valuable food source or a spawner for producing future returns. Coho are extremely susceptible. The 1993 ADF&G report on the "Mortality of coho salmon caught and released using sport tackle in the Little Susitna, Alaska-ADF&G (Doug Vincent-Lang, Marianna Alexandersdottir and Doug McBride) documented a 69% mortality on coho salmon in the lower (10 to 15 miles) of fresh water systems when using bait. This lower section is where the majority of catch and release occurs. This lower section of fresh water systems is the highest for mortality because of the stress caused by hook and release when salmon are the most susceptible because of chemical changes the body is undergoing to acclimate to fresh water. This stress and lactic acid build up is being compounded with the trend of warmer water temperatures. The Little Susitna coho fishery is overcrowded and not sustainable.

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**PROPOSAL 227**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Open additional days in the sport fishery in the Fish Creek drainage, as follows:

- (5) in the Fish Creek drainage,
- (A) the waters from ADF&G regulatory markers located at its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory maker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road are open to sport fishing **the first two Saturdays and Sundays in July, and from August 1 - December 31, although fishing on the first Saturday and Sunday in August will remain open only to youths under 16 years of age.** [BEGINNING THE SECOND SATURDAY IN AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER 31 ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS] from 5:00 am-10 p.m., except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Please allow more sportfishing for salmon in the small section of Fish Creek that is open to salmon fishing. A harvestable surplus occurs at this location, even though escapement numbers remain lower in nearby streams. Additional fishing days could be added to better utilize harvestable surplus coho and sockeye salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-043)  
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**PROPOSAL 228**

**5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Prohibit fishing while wading in Fish Creek, as follows:

(5)

(a)(5)(new) **In Fish Creek, fishing while wading is prohibited downstream from a department marker located approximately 0.1 mi below the Knik-Goose Bay Road from 2.5 hours before high tide through the time of high tide, according to the NOAA Anchorage Tide Tables for Anchorage.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fish Creek is open to sport fishing on weekends during the coho salmon run. Sport fishing is allowed starting on the second Saturday in August through the end of December. However, fishing usually terminates when the run stops in September. Coho salmon are sight feeders.

Nearly all of the sport fishers fishing for coho salmon in Fish Creek during this time use lures as terminal tackle. There is very little to no use of bait in this stream. I have been fishing this stream since 1984. Recently, the number of fishers fishing this weekend fishery has increased dramatically. A very few of these fishers wade in the stream to catch the incoming tide and the migrating coho salmon. Normally, there is only one or two fisher who wade in the stream during the incoming tide. Nearly all of the fishers are fishing from the bank. Fishing while wading within the intertidal area of Fish Creek dislodges so much glacial flour (mud) that it causes great turbidity downstream of the wading fisher. This turbidity is so great that it takes away the fishing opportunity from the fishers on the bank. Because of the extreme turbidity caused by the fisher wading in this stream within the intertidal zone, the coho salmon cannot see and therefore hit the lures. The opportunity to catch coho salmon is markedly reduced by this turbidity, nearly to zero.

I would like the Board to prohibit fishing while wading in Fish Creek for two and a half hours before high tide through the time of high tide. These two and a half hours would allow more catching opportunity for the vast majority of the fishers who fish from the bank. Wading above the intertidal zone does not cloud the water. Therefore, I suggest that the Board prohibit fishing while wading in Fish Creek downstream of a department marker set at approximately 0.1 mile below the Knik-Goose Bay Road, or below the road culvert for the period 2.5 hours before high tide through high tide, according to the NOAA Tide Tables for Anchorage.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gene Sandone

(HQ-F19-129)

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**PROPOSAL 229**

**5 AAC 59.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area.**

Extend the hours of the Ship Creek youth fishery, as follows:

(14) in the Ship Creek drainage,

(J) a person 16 years of age or older may not sport fish in the Ship Creek youth fishery zone, established in Ship Creek between the upstream side of the C Street Bridge upstream to the downstream side of the restaurant bridge, during the designated youth fishery day, which occurs from 6:00 a.m. to **10:00**[6:00] p.m. on the third Saturday in June.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allocating of additional hours (4) would ensure youth anglers are capable of maximizing the youth fishery and will allow them to possibly be more successful due to the tidal changes.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dustin Douglas Slinker

(EF-F19-102)

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*Anchorage Bowl Drainage Area (1 proposal)*

**PROPOSAL 230**

**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 retention of snagged sockeye salmon in the Big River Lakes and Wolverine Creek, as follows:

Sockeye salmon may be retained that are not hooked in the mouth in the big river lakes & wolverine creek fishery. The current single hook size regulation will be retained.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Big River lakes, & wolverine sockeye fishery takes place in a lake with no current, it is 100% impossible to hook these fish in the mouth. Hundreds of anglers fish this remote fishery every day, mostly with guides. The vast majority of the fish retained in this fishery are not hooked in the mouth, making all the anglers & guides in this fishery criminals. This is a snag fishery plain & simple & everybody knows it so making this fishery legal would be in the fisheries best interest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Adam Housh

(EF-F19-051)

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*Westside Cook Inlet Area (3 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 231**

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

Establish limits in the Big River Drainage of two salmon 16" or greater in length, as follows:

**(17) in the big river drainage, including wolverine creek, the bag and possession limit is two salmon 16 inches or greater in length**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Concern for the increasing fishing pressure and exploitation of the Sockeye and Coho salmon runs in the Big River drainage. This change would help to alleviate depletion of the stocks while not having a substantial effect on sportfish opportunities. It would also allow for a more orderly and expeditious fishery at the "line up" at Wolverine Creek.

**PROPOSED BY:** Danny Brewer (EF-F19-067)  
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**PROPOSAL 232**

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

Close a section of the south fork of Big River to sport fishing, as follows:

**the south fork of big river is closed to sportfishing upstream from a ADF&G regulatory marker located at the first island approximately 3/4 mile upstream from the confluence at Otter Lake**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To protect the spawning beds that are vulnerable to fishing exploitation on the South Fork of the Big River upstream from the island approximately 3/4 mile from the confluence with Otter Lake. Besides the spawning beds, there is very little sportfishing opportunity upstream from this point so the impact on fishing will be minimal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Danny Brewer (EF-F19-068)  
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**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)  
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*Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use (8 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 234**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a personal use salmon fishery on the Susitna River, as follows:

5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net only as follows:**

**(1) from July 10th through August 15th, Wednesday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, Saturday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, and Sunday 6:00 am to 11:00 pm**

**(2) from a boat or from shore between ADF&G regulatory marker located 1 mile downstream from Susitna Station to Bell Island/Alexander Creek cutoff ADF&G regulatory marker.**

**(3) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that no king salmon may be retained and any king salmon caught must be returned to the water unharmed. Northern pike caught must be retained.**

**(4) a permit holder for this fishery shall report to the department as specified in permit conditions, the department may alter, time, area, species retained and limits based on salmon abundance.**

**(5) When the department projects that both sockeye and coho abundance will be above the midpoint of all 4 escapement goals: Larson, Judd, Chelatna Lake and Deshka River the commissioner may extend, by emergency order, the personal use fishery through August 31<sup>st</sup>**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Provide Alaskan residents an opportunity to harvest chum, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon in the Susitna River. Residents of the Mat-Su Valley would like the option of a PU fishery on the Susitna River and not having to travel hundreds of miles away to the Kenai or Copper Rivers. The most recent ADFG abundance estimates indicate there are inriver fish to harvest. Recent abundance and harvest of these stocks indicate to us there is a harvestable surplus of salmon inriver and a limited PU fishery is warranted. If there is not a harvestable surplus of salmon in river then the BOF needs to shift the allocations slightly and direct the commercial fishery to share in the harvest (or lack of harvest) with other users and uses.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-040)

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**PROPOSAL 235**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a lower Susitna River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

**5 AAC 77.540(h) (new section).**

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net only as follows:**

- (1) from July 10 through August 31, seven days per week, from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm;**
- (2) the annual limit is as specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that no king salmon larger than 28 inches may be retained;**
- (3) from a boat or shore, in those waters from an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the confluence of the Susitna and Yentna Rivers downstream to at the power line crossing the Susitna River.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Open a personal use fishery in the lower Susitna River.

ADF&G has in-river data showing multiple salmon species returning to the Susitna River, implying that additional access is necessary. The opening dates can avoid the returning king salmon in June. Any king netted in July-August will most likely be a small jack.

The valley population has expanded to 150% over the census taken in 2000. The fishing populations harvesting from the few local personal use fisheries available in the Valley puts burdens on these small fisheries, as well as the Kenai River and other Cook Inlet fisheries.

The lower Susitna River has relatively easy access for a personal use fishery downstream of the confluence of the Yentna and Susitna Rivers. There is a gravel bar suitable for landing an airplane and for fishing from shore near the Susitna-Yentna confluence.

A side effect of this fishery in the Valley will be fewer vehicles driving the Seward Highway, which was designated as a Safety Corridor in May, 2006. Safety Corridors have been identified as having higher than average incidences of crashes causing serious injuries and fatalities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kristine Ogonowski (EF-F19-059)

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**PROPOSAL 236**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net as follows:**

- (1) from July 10 through August 10, only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 8 am to 8 pm daily.**



**(2) the annual limit is specified in 5 AAC 77.525, except that king salmon 28 inches and greater in length may not be retained, and any king salmon caught 28 inches or greater in length must be returned to the water immediately. — All northern pike caught may be retained without limit, but northern pike may not be returned to the water alive.**

**(3) from a boat or from shore downstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker on the northwest bank of the Yentna River/Susitna River confluence to an ADF&G regulatory marker located upstream of Alexander Creek Cut Off Channels/Bell Island on the West Bank and an ADF&G regulatory marker located downstream of the Susitna Station side-channel on the East Bank.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Adopt a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery.

Many Alaska residents of Northern Cook Inlet would have easier access to this fishery than driving hundreds of miles to participate in Kenai and Kasilof River personal use fisheries, or driving to the out-of-region Copper River personal use fishery. Currently Alaska residents fishing the Susitna River drainage are allowed to harvest a much lower percentage of surplus salmon compared to Kenai, Kasilof, and Copper River inriver salmon harvesters.

The large Susitna River floodplain would allow this fishery to occur with minimal environmental impact. The Susitna River personal use dip net fishery would spread personal use fishermen over more area and lessen impacts/crowding on Kenai, Kasilof, and Copper River personal use areas. Northern Cook Inlet should enjoy economic benefit — similar to local economic benefits provided by Kenai, Kasilof, and Copper River personal use fisheries.

More Alaskan residents reside in Northern Cook Inlet (Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley) than in any similar-sized area of Alaska, so it is appropriate to provide this personal use fishery here. A July 10 start, ensures most migrating king salmon have already passed, with remaining king salmon predominately males under 28 inches in length. Allowing harvest of all salmon (except king salmon 28 inches or greater in length), spreads harvest impact over 5 species, while easing identification (by size) of king salmon to be released. Closing the fishery after August 10 would focus harvest during a period of pink, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon abundance. 8 am — 8 pm provides 12 hours of fishing and 12 hours of unmolested salmon passage per day, without encouraging Susitna River boat traffic during hours of lower visibility. This Alaska resident opportunity, to put food on the table, would be 4 days/48 hours per week.

**PROPOSED BY:** Frede Stier (HQ-F19-088)  
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**PROPOSAL 237**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a Susitna River personal use dip net fishery, as follows:

**(h) In the Susitna River, salmon may be taken by dip net as follows:**

- (1) from July 14 until EO closure date of the Northern District set net fishery, 7 days per week from 10 am to 5 pm daily.**
- (2) the annual limit is specified in 5 AAC 77.525.**
- (3) from boat or shore downstream of the northwest bank of the Susitna River/Yentna River confluence to Susitna River terminus at Cook Inlet.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Consider adopting a conservative 7-day per week Susitna River personal use dip net fishery.

The fishery would provide an opportunity for Alaska residents, living in the Susitna Valley, to harvest a reasonable amount of salmon for personal consumption throughout the year. A 7-day per week fishery would allow effort and harvest to be spread out over every day of the week. Such a fishery could be restricted by hours when fishing was allowed to remain conservative. A conservative participant level would also be maintained by access to the proposed fishing area — primary access is by boat or airplane, as there is no road access. Note: Even though this fishery is entirely within Game Management Unit 16B (a subsistence hunting area) this fishery is proposed as a personal use fishery, rather than a subsistence fishery, in recognition of the Susitna River salmon resource providing reasonable harvest opportunity for other Upper Cook Inlet user groups. Salmon abundances and conservation measures would be shared in common with other users.

Restricting legal fishing time to 7 hours per day/49 hours per week would allow significantly more daily hours when salmon could migrate through the fishing area unmolested. Since harvest would be allowed 7 days per week — some harvest opportunity would be available on most, if not all, days when large pulses of salmon were migrating through the harvest area. Legal fishing hours can be structured to encourage safer boating and easier enforcement during daylight hours, while also providing additional daylight hours after fishery closure that would be available to transport the inevitable broken down boats and their passengers back to homesites/campsites along the river system or to Deshka Landing. A 7 -hour-per-day fishing option would likely encourage more conservative daily fishery participation over multi-day or campout-along-the-river participation. A late season-ending date allows harvest/consumption by residents hunting moose within this popular subsistence hunting area.

A conservative Susitna River personal use fishery could be configured in any number of ways, this proposal provides additional points for Board and public consideration.

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Sanderlin (HQ-F19-089)

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**PROPOSAL 238**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Create a personal use dip net fishery in Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage, as follows:

The dipnetting area would be approximately 1/2-mile upstream of the Yenta to a department marker, from the confluence of the Yentna/Susitna river, downstream to a department marker approximately at the Northern most portion of Bell Island. The time frame would be 4 consecutives, 3 day weekends, starting from the 2nd weekend in July. The hours would be from

6:00AM-11:00PM. No retention of King salmon would be allowed. All Pike taken must not be returned to the water. Bag limit would be consistent with other south-Central dipnetting fisheries and use the same permit; 25 per head of household, 10 for each additional household member. The total household catch would be combined with other South Central dipnet fisheries to not exceed those household limits.

\*\*\*\*\*Since this is a new fishery it is suggested that reporting be weekly or bi-weekly, as per the subsistence fishery in the area. It would be somewhat safe to assume that attendance would be somewhat low the first year and to the fact that it is accessible by boat or plane only. This proposal is intended to increase opportunity, take some pressure off the Kenai/Kasilof dipnet fisheries and we welcome changes, if need be, to accomplish that.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We are proposing to create a personal use dipnet fishery for the Yentna/Susitna river drainage, situated in the Northern district. Per ADF&G abundance estimates, on average, 360,000 sockeye, 200,000 coho and 800,000 chum salmon migrate through this section annually.

Since the Definition of a sustainable escapement goal, is per ADF&G, “a level of escapement that is known to provide for sustained yield over a 5-10-year period”. As such, “an SEG will be determined by the department and will be stated as a range that takes into account data uncertainty; the department will seek to maintain escapements within the bounds of the SEG”. From 5 AAC 39.222 (f)

That said, the SEG, set by the department, for Sockeye are as follows: Chelatna Lake is 20,000-45,000, Judd Lake is 15,000-40,000 and Larson Lake is 15,000-35,000. The 10 year average, per ADF&G is: Chelatna Lake-46,400, Judd Lake-40,600, Larson Lake-30,100 (rounded off to the nearest 100) FMR 18-10 Shields and Frothingham/Appendix A-12

**PROPOSED BY:** South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association (EF-F19-120)  
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**PROPOSAL 239**

**5 AAC 77.540. Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan.**

Establish a personal use gillnet pike fishery in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, as follows:

Subsistence pike/personal use pike: Subsistence nets to be used 15-20 feet in length in all pike lakes or suspected lakes. No limits, ALL fish must be kept.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to see a change that would increase the usage of northern pike to be included as both personal use and or subsistence. This can be accomplished with subsistence nets in lakes in the Mat-Su valley.

The change in the regulation will help keep the number of large fish to a minimum and allow opportunities for pan sized trout. If nothing is changed, pike number will continue to increase and expand and deplete other species of fish to include king salmon. Other solutions in pike lakes: expanded use of rotenone in Mat-Su pike lakes.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brent Lannen

(EF-F19-005)

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**PROPOSAL 240**

**5 AAC 77.5xx. New section.**

Create a personal use northern pike gillnet fishery in the Susitna River drainage, as follows:

**New Section 5 AAC 77.54x Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Northern Pike Fishery Management Plan. (a) In the Susitna River drainage Units 1-6 during times when salmon are not present and northern pike are prevalent, northern pike may be taken with set gillnet. (1) no annual limit (2) The department will develop permit conditions, reporting requirements, areas, time, and net size on an as needed basis to provide an opportunity to harvest pike for consumption and invasive species control.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Pike are an invasive species and the department should facilitate the public in helping reduce pike numbers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F19-041)

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**PROPOSAL 241**

**5 AAC 77.xxx. New section.**

Establish provisions for the personal use of aquatic plants in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Nonsubsistence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 77.528 is created and reads:

5 AAC 77.528. Personal Use Aquatic Plant Fishery. Aquatic plants may be harvested by hand for personal use at any time and there are no bag or possession limits except that:

(a) within the Anchorage Nonsubsistence Area defined in 5 AAC 99.015(3), there are no harvest limits, except that along the shoreline adjacent to the Kenai Peninsula road system, the daily harvest and possession limit is 10 pounds wet weight of aquatic plants, with no limits to the harvest of aquatic plants that have been naturally dislodged from the substrate;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations for the personal use harvest of aquatic plants, (5 AAC 77.001(c)) require that aquatic plants may only be harvested according to the provisions laid out in Chapter 77. There are no provisions in Chapter 77 for the harvest of aquatic plants in Cook Inlet. Current regulations in Chapter 37 allow harvest for non-commercial use outside of non-subsistence areas in Cook Inlet with a daily harvest and possession limit of 10 pounds per day, but prohibit (due to lack of provisions allowing it) personal use harvesting of aquatic plants within the Anchorage non-subsistence area described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(3). The towns of Kenai, Soldotna, Seward and Homer are located in this area. Currently, many local residents do not realize that there is no provision for the personal use harvest of aquatic plants. There is currently a significant harvest of personal use kelp on various species for garden compost and other household uses.

This proposal seeks to provide the regulatory provisions necessary to harvest aquatic plants for personal use, and to provide limited opportunities for the harvest of aquatic plants within the non-subsistence area in the Cook Inlet area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eliza Eller (HQ-F19-007)  
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Subsistence (2 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 242**

**5 AAC 01.593. Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery.**

Allow two additional fishing days per week in the Upper Yentna River subsistence salmon fishery, as follows:

(2) in the mainstream of the Yentna River from its confluence with Martin Creek upstream to its confluence with the Skwentna River from June 1 through June 30 and July 15 through August 7 from

- (A) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday;
- (B) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday;**
- (C) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday
- (D) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday**
- (E) 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Due to high water and flooding conditions on many years this fishery has missed many days of opportunity. Requesting two additional days per week to allow for more opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mt. Yenlo Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F19-036)  
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**PROPOSAL 243**

**5 AAC 01.595. Subsistence bag, possession, and size limits.**

Allow the harvest of other salmon in place of king salmon in the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery, as follows:

Amend Tyonek Subdistrict annual possession limits as follows:

- (a) The total annual possession limit for each subsistence salmon fishing permit is as follows:
  - (1) there is no annual possession limit for holders of Port Graham, Koyuktolik, Port Chatham, and Windy Bay Subdistrict and Seldovia Bay subsistence salmon fishing permits, except that in Seldovia Bay a person holding a subsistence salmon fishing permit may not take more than 20 king salmon per household;
  - (2) 25 salmon for the head of a household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder;
  - (3) **The holder of a Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishing permit may take 95 salmon and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder, with a maximum of 70 king salmon.**

[IN ADDITION TO THE LIMITS IN (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE HOLDER OF A TYONEK SUBDISTRICT SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING PERMIT MAY TAKE 70 KING SALMON; NO MORE THAN 4,200 KING SALMON MAY BE TAKEN IN THE TYONEK SUBDISTRICT FROM MAY 15 THROUGH JUNE 30.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow the harvest of ‘other salmon’ (non king salmon) in place of allowed king salmon harvest for the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery.

Restrictive measures and low king returns have made it difficult for Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence permit holders to harvest their allowed quota of salmon. Multiple King salmon stocks in Upper Cook Inlet, including seven stocks of concern, have failed to meet escapement goals in recent years. For 2019, EO 2S-01-19 further restricts subsistence permit holders’ ability to harvest by changing the number of fishing days per week from 3 to 2.

This regulation change would allow subsistence users to fill their household quota with other species of salmon, instead of kings. Current regulations are clear that 70 kings are allowed and 25 ‘other salmon.’ With the current situation of Upper Cook Inlet salmon, protecting a chinook by allocating a sockeye, coho etc. is a good move. This would preserve the subsistence lifestyle, and remove some pressure on the sensitive king salmon stocks of concern.

This change would adhere to the Upper Cook Inlet Management Plan, with the statutory priority for subsistence. It would not provide for an increase the number of king salmon harvested, but would allow subsistence users to maintain their subsistence lifestyle. The board has found that all species of salmon are customarily and traditionally taken in Tyonek, and that 700 – 2,700 king salmon, and 150 – 500 other salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Tyonek subdistrict (5 AAC 01.566).

It is arguable that if this proposal were placed into regulation, that the Tyonek Subdistrict subsistence fishery’s harvest could exceed the 150 – 500 (other salmon) previously found reasonably necessary by the board. However, there are strong indications that this number needs reexamined. The ‘other salmon reasonably necessary number’ is based upon a presumption that subsistence users are able to harvest sufficient numbers of Chinook salmon. This has not been the case in recent years, and in 2019 will be further impacted by the actions of EO 2S-01-19.

The fishery has consistently fallen within the reasonable necessary harvest numbers for Chinook. Historically, the fishery also consistently fell well within the reasonable harvest numbers for other salmon, until recently when king salmon numbers began to decline, users began to harvest more ‘other salmon.’ There is a preference towards kings, yet in difficult times, subsistence users simply want to fill their smokehouses and freezers with the fish that they can. On page 69 of Technical Paper 439, “Subsistence Harvests and Uses of Salmon in Tyonek, 2015 and 2016,” it was found that, “Coho salmon have recently become an important species of salmon for the residents of Tyonek. Community members who were unable to obtain enough Chinook salmon during the early fishing season rely upon coho salmon to sustain their subsistence salmon needs.”

Subsistence fisheries regulations state that (Sec. 16.05.258): “(b) The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses and... (A) Shall adopt regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of those stocks or populations;” In this case, the fish stock being discussed is UCI salmon, other than king salmon. If the amount found reasonably necessary for subsistence use in the Tyonek subdistrict is 150 – 500 fish, with commercial harvest exceeding 1 million fish and an unknown sport fish harvest, failure to address this issue would be a violation of the BOF’s statutory priority for subsistence.

Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Harvest – (2018)

Season to Date

District Name	Deliveries	Chin.	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
244 UCI Ctr Total (Drift)	5252	2,658	693,892	110,843	108,478	121,428	1,037,299
245 UCI Ctr Total (Set)	265	117	38,073	20,588	432	2,558	61,768
246 UCI Ctr Total (Kalgin Is.)	283	328	34,270	25,374	6,834	611	67,417
247 UCI Northern Total	587	130	48,310	64,056	10,861	5,085	128,442
Grand Total	6387	3,233	814,545	220,861	126,605	129,682	1,294,926

If nothing is changed, the livelihood of the subsistence fishery is negatively affected, and no means to alleviate pressure on the king salmon stocks of concern would be provided.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyonek Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F19-131)  
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