

## Proposal 221 5 AAC 61.144 Special Provisions

RC 174

From: Matanuska Susitna Fish and Wildlife Commission

### Overview

Seeks to add bait to the Susitna River fishery in Unit 2 through 10<sup>th</sup> of September, an extension of 10 additional days when bait may be used.

### Salient Points

- There is an editorial error in the proposal language; the proposal description states the extension of bait to the 11<sup>th</sup> but the proposal calls for an extension through the 10<sup>th</sup> of September.
- During this 10-day extension the fishery is primarily for coho salmon
- Rainbow trout are present in the system and are stable at historical levels. Annual catches average 38,876 (2012 – 16) annual harvest. (Table 1)
- Sport fishing effort has been in a period of decline across all unit 2 fisheries (Figure 1)
- Harvest by species has also declined across the unit 2 fisheries as a product of declining effort and restricted fisheries (Figure 2)
- An extension of 10 Days of bait in the Unit 2 fishery will result in a modest increased opportunity to harvest coho salmon and will not constitute a threat to stable rainbow trout populations.

### Attachments

Table 1 NCI Area rainbow trout catch and harvest

Figure 1 Eastside Susitna Management Unit (Unit 2) Angler Effort

Figure 2 NCIMA Harvest by species

# Table 1

## Northern Cook Inlet

## Area Rainbow Trout Catch and Harvest

Table 55.—Page 2 of 2.

Year	Northern Cook Inlet Management Area													
	Knik Arm		Eastside Susitna		Westside Susitna		West Cook Inlet		Total		Southcentral Region		Statewide	
	Catch <sup>a</sup>	Harvest	Catch <sup>a</sup>	Harv.	Catch <sup>a</sup>	Harv.	Catch <sup>a</sup>	Harv.	Catch <sup>a</sup>	Harv.	Harvest	% NCIMA	Harvest	% NCIMA
2006	48,064	13,524	38,862	1,590	44,018	1,027	1,538	170	84,960	16,311	33,119	49.2	53,086	30.7
2007	40,742	10,613	64,077	840	32,036	619	2,124	216	98,367	12,288	30,361	40.5	50,231	24.5
2008	67,585	15,537	36,798	1,521	18,063	744	1,276	106	56,381	17,908	36,334	49.3	49,159	36.4
2009	39,983	7,981	36,707	691	27,455	865	1,322	10	65,510	9,547	23,365	40.9	35,976	26.5
2010	42,267	10,845	39,958	1,826	20,232	434	746	89	61,085	13,194	25,712	51.3	38,941	33.9
2011	44,805	9,368	63,725	977	38,060	341	843	43	102,740	10,729	23,073	46.5	32,098	33.4
2012	29,680	8,294	27,446	623	24,718	179	376	102	52,583	9,198	21,912	42.0	29,942	30.7
2013	52,070	9,195	44,029	1,248	20,178	468	876	0	117,153	10,911	29,931	36.5	40,589	26.9
2014	46,671	9,286	33,899	1,160	40,833	872	1,546	32	122,949	11,350	26,312	43.1	37,722	30.1
2015	51,799	10,265	49,431	468	38,294	494	880	61	140,404	11,288	38,039	29.7	62,812	18.0
2016	46,599	10,495	39,576	1,281	19,406	418	770	0	106,351	12,194	32,335	37.7	53,461	22.8
Mean 1977–2016	65,698	22,830	38,103	3,823	31,169	3,941	1,619	384	136,589	30,978	80,162	38.6	113,831	27.2
2012–2016	45,364	9,507	38,876	956	28,686	486	890	39	113,815	10,988	29,706	37.8	44,905	25.7
2017	51,065	9,375	25,774	817	5,988	362	585	0	83,412	10,554	28,306	37.3	41,839	25.2

Source: Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Internet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited December 2019).

Available from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/>

<sup>a</sup> Catch data not available until 1990.

# Figure 1

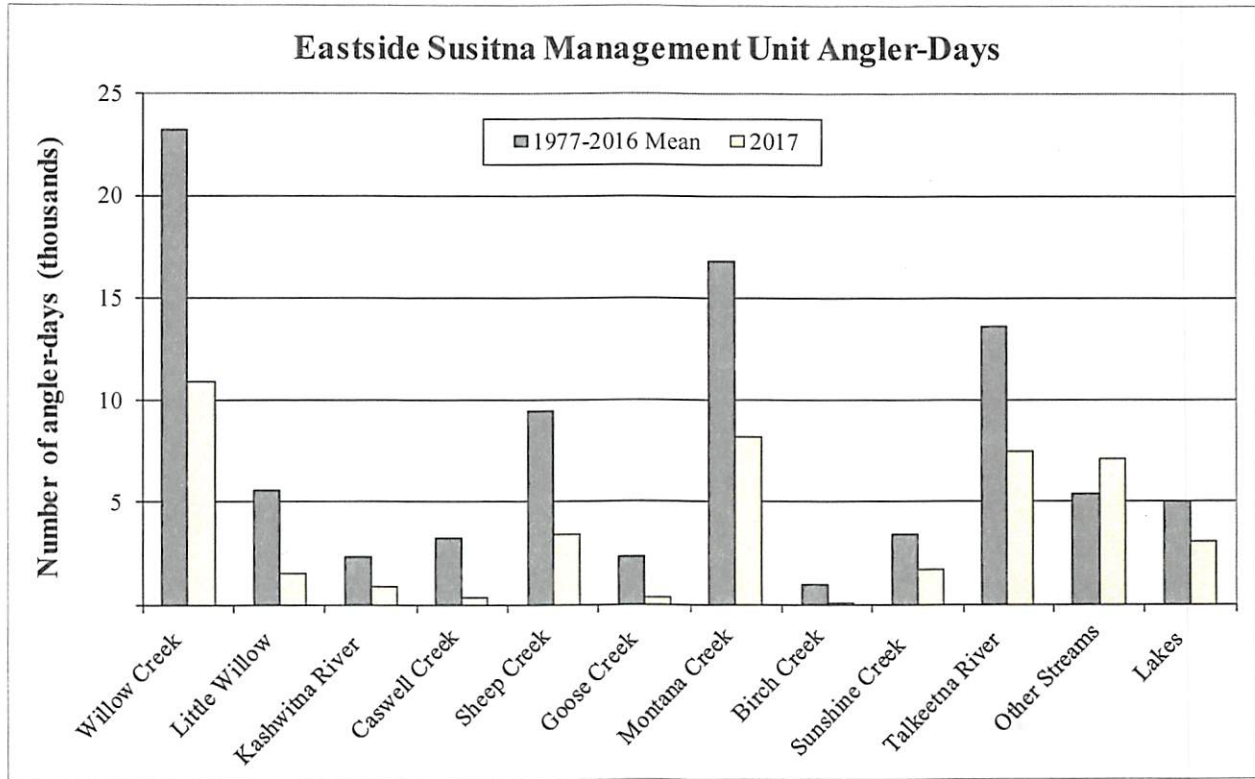


Figure 4.—Comparison of annual sport fishing effort (number of angler-days expended per year) for 2017 versus the mean for 1977–2016 at sites in the Eastside Susitna River Management Unit.

Source: Mills (1979, 1980, 1981a, 1981b, 1982–1994); Howe et al. (1995, 1996); Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Internet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited December 2019). Available from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/>.

Figure 2

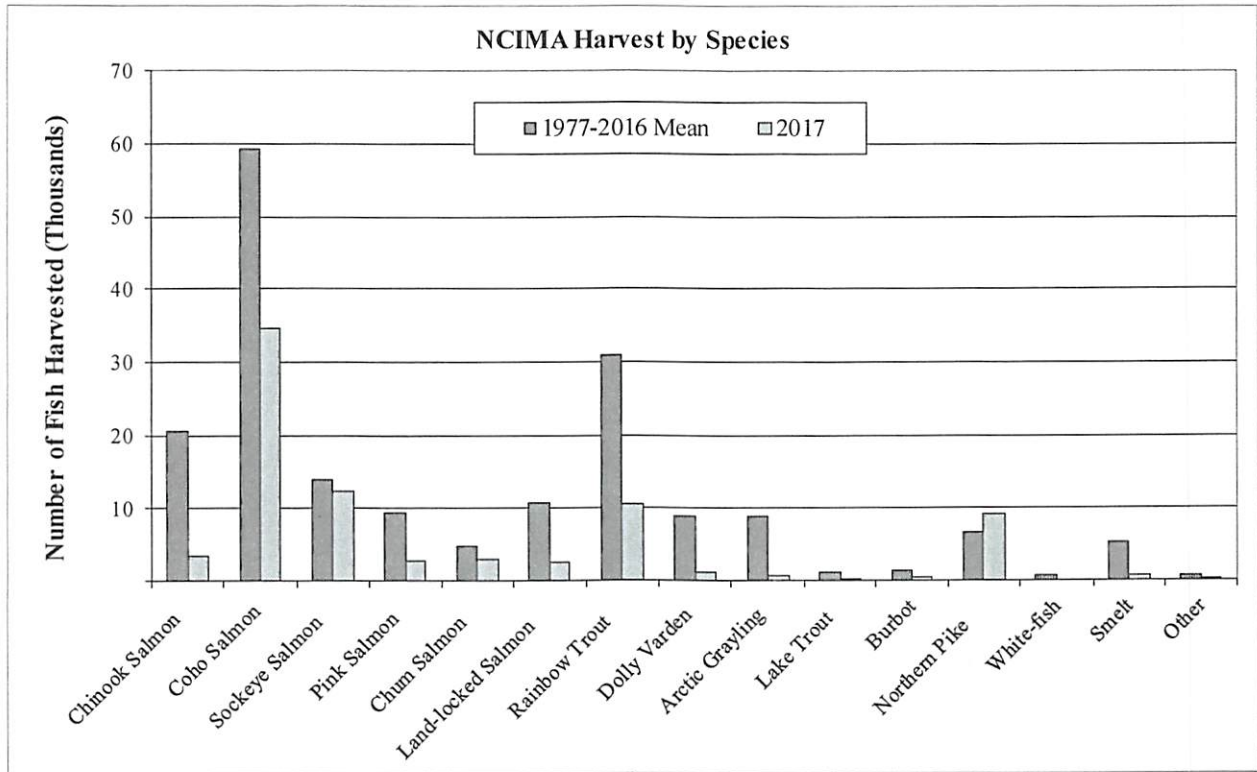


Figure 8.—Northern Cook Inlet Management Area sport harvest by species, comparison of 1977–2016 average harvest versus 2017 harvest.

Source: Mills (1979, 1980, 1981a, 1981b, 1982–1994); Howe et al. (1995, 1996); Alaska Sport Fishing Survey database [Internet]. 1996–present. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish (cited December 2019). Available from: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/sportfishingsurvey/>.