

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 52.023. Special Provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Remove the 14-inch size limit for Gulkana River Arctic grayling, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023 is amended to read:

(9) (C) in waters upstream of Paxson Lake and those waters of Paxson Lake within a 100-yard radius of the mouth of the East Fork at the north end of Paxson Lake upstream to Summit Lake,

(iii) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is two fish, **with no size limit**[OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

(D) in all flowing waters from 100 yards upstream from the narrows at the Paxson Lake outlet downstream to the confluence with the Middle Fork;

(iii) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(E) in all waters of the Middle Fork of the Gulkana River from the outlet of Dickey Lake to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately three miles downstream, including Hungry Hollow Creek and Twelvemile Creek,

(iii) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(F) in all other waters of the Middle Fork of the Gulkana River not specified in (E) of this section,

(iii) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(G) all waters downstream of the confluence of the Middle Fork,

(iii) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(H) in all flowing waters of the West Fork of the Gulkana River upstream of an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-half mile upstream of the confluence of the West Fork and mainstem of the Gulkana River,

(iii) [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(18) in Paxson Lake,

[(E) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH WITH NO SIZE LIMIT, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;]

(20) in the Summit Lake drainage,

(F) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is two fish, **with no size limit**[OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Based on a study of Gulkana River Arctic grayling, a one fish over 14-inch size restriction was imposed in 1989 to preserve the size structure of the Arctic grayling populations in that system. Subsequent assessments have been conducted since that time, including a comprehensive study completed in 2019. Based on these studies and recent harvest trends, it was determined that the 14-inch restriction is no longer needed to maintain the desired population size and structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-143)
