

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area.

Repeal bag and possession limits for sheefish in the Kanektok, Goodnews, and Arolik Rivers, as follows:

5 AAC 71.010 (c)(7)(E) is amended to read:

...

(E) **repealed** / / [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR SHEEFISH IS TWO FISH, NO SIZE LIMIT];

5 AAC 71.010 (c)(8)(D) is amended to read:

...

(D) **repealed** / / [SHEEFISH IS TWO FISH, NO SIZE LIMIT];

5 AAC 71.010 (c)(9)(C) is amended to read:

...

(C) **repealed** / / [SHEEFISH IS TWO FISH, NO SIZE LIMIT];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kanektok, Arolik, and Goodnews Rivers drain into Kuskokwim Bay 30 – 80 miles south of the Kuskokwim River mouth and are not believed to support populations of sheefish. These river systems support sport fisheries (guided and unguided) that target rainbow trout, king, coho, and sockeye salmon, Arctic grayling, and Dolly Varden. Neither subsistence fishers nor sport anglers have reported catching sheefish in these rivers. This stands in contrast to the Kuskokwim River where sheefish are found and harvested throughout the drainage.

There is a special regulation in place for the Kanektok, Arolik, and Goodnews Rivers that limits anglers to two sheefish, no size limit, which incorrectly implies that sheefish are present in these systems and creates unnecessary regulatory complexity. Removal of these bag limits would simplify the regulations for these drainages and remove any expectation for anglers hoping to catch a sheefish in these drainages.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-014)
