

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

Amend dates that bait is allowed and a single-hook is required in the King Salmon and Bear Rivers, as follows:

5 AAC 65.022(b)(2) is amended to read:

...

(2) may use only an unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly **from January 1 through July 25.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the 2023 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik board meeting, the Board of Fisheries adopted bait, gear, and harvest restrictions on king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Bear and King Salmon Rivers near Port Moller. Regulations specify that only an unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure or fly may be used in these drainages; however, the regulations do not specify a date for these restrictions and the restrictions are currently in place year-round rather than only for the king salmon season. While there is little information for salmon runs in these drainages, other than the sockeye salmon run counted at the Bear Lake weir, the original proposal was specific to king salmon. Restricting terminal tackle options during other fisheries in the drainage, such as for coho salmon, is unnecessary. Clarifying that these restrictions apply exclusively to the king salmon fishery from January 1 through July 25 and updating regulatory language to align tackle restrictions with the king salmon season will improve late season angling opportunities for other species and minimize confusion for those fishing 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-F26-013)
