

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 74.044. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.

Repeal the bag limit reduction for northern pike in portions of Minto Flats, as follows:

Since the majority of northern pike harvested in the upper Chatanika winter subsistence pike fishery inhabit that southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ section of Minto Flats, then any reduction to the summer sport pike fishery should encompass only that southeast portion of Minto Flats and not dictate a reduction in the $\frac{3}{4}$ remainder, where the sport pike daily bag and possession limit should remain at 5 fish with only one 30" or more in length.

New regulation language for 5AAC 74.044 is in bold.

5AAC 74.044 (c) if the subsistence harvest reports indicate that 750 or more northern pike have been harvested from the Chatanika River drainage upstream of the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek during the period from January 1 until these waters are free of ice, the commissioner shall reduce, by emergency order, the daily bag and possession limit to two fish per day, only one of which may be 30 inches or more in length , **for the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Minto Flats encompassing Minto Lakes, Goldstream Creek and the upper Chatanika River upstream of the confluence with Goldstream Creek** [IN THE LAKES AND ALL FLOWING WATERS OF THE MINTO FLATS AREA FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CALENDAR YEAR]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5AAC 01.244 identifies the Upper Chatanika winter pike subsistence fishery boundaries as "in the Chatanika River drainage, from an ADF& G regulatory marker approximately one river mile upstream of the confluence of the Chatanika River and Goldstream Creek to an ADF& G regulatory marker at the boundary of the Fairbanks Non-subsistence Area (approximately one mile downstream from Murphy Dome Road)"

Currently under 5AAC 74.044 if the northern pike harvest in the upper Chatanika winter subsistence pike fishery reaches 750 fish, then the daily bag and possession limit for the sports fishery for the whole of Minto Flats is reduced from 5 fish with only one 30" or more in length to a daily bag and possession limit of 2 fish with only one 30" or more in length. The upper Chatanika River winter subsistence fishery boundaries encompass only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole of Minto Flats and includes only one of three identified Minto Flats major pike overwintering areas. The two other overwintering areas are far downstream on the Tolovana River and Swan Neck Slough. Through tagging programs, F&G determined the majority of the pike overwintering and harvested in the upper Chatanika winter subsistence pike fishery are from the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Minto Flats, which includes Minto Lakes, Goldstream Creek and the upper Chatanika River. Winter pike harvest in this small portion of Minto Flats should not dictate the summer pike sport daily bag and possession limit for the whole of Minto Flats.

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

PROPOSED BY: Chuck Derrick

(EF-F26-053)
