

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Repeal Arctic grayling special regulations and gear restrictions for the confluence area of the Tanana River and Shaw Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(21), (23) are amended to read:

...

(21) **repealed** / / [IN THE SHAW CREEK DRAINAGE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 31, BY CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING ONLY];

(23) **repealed** / / [IN THE TANANA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES WITHIN A TWO-MILE RADIUS OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH SHAW CREEK, ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 31, BY CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING ONLY];

5 AAC 74.010(d)(16), (18) are repealed:

...

(16) **repealed** / / [IN SHAW CREEK,

(A) ONLY ONE UNBAITED, SINGLE-HOOK, ARTIFICIAL LURE MAY BE USED;

(B) DOWNSTREAM FROM THE RICHARDSON HIGHWAY BRIDGE, BAIT MAY BE USED ONLY ON SINGLE HOOKS WITH A GAP SIZE LARGER THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF AN INCH];

(18) **repealed** / / [IN THE TANANA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES WITHIN A TWO-MILE RADIUS OF ITS CONFLUENCE OF SHAW CREEK, BAIT MAY BE USED ONLY ON SINGLE HOOKS WITH A GAP SIZE LARGER THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF AN INCH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shaw Creek is a small tributary of the Tanana River that crosses the Richardson Highway 19 miles northwest of Delta Junction. Shaw Creek and the upland areas adjacent to the Tanana River have limited legal access for anglers. The current regulations for Shaw Creek and the adjacent areas of the Tanana River were originally adopted in February 1987 as a conservative measure for a fishery that had developed on the Shaw Creek Arctic grayling spawning population of Arctic grayling. Radiotelemetry data on nearby Arctic grayling summer populations show that the spawning population of Arctic grayling in Shaw Creek is composed of fish from at least three different drainages all with healthy summer populations. These populations inhabit clear, spring-water streams in the summer, while Shaw Creek has poor summer feeding habitat and is primarily used by Arctic grayling for spawning and juvenile rearing. These changes would simplify regulations and increase opportunity.

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-F26-017)
