

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.

Modify hook size specifications when sport fishing for salmon in the Northwestern Management Area, as follows:

HOOK SIZE:

Multiple hooks with a gap between point and shank larger than **19/32** inch, **or a 2/0 hook**, may be used for taking fish other than salmon, except where noted.

HOOK SIZE:

MULTIPLE HOOKS WITH A GAP BETWEEN POINT AND SHANK LARGER THAN [½] INCH MAY BE USED FOR TAKING FISH OTHER THAN SALMON, EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Nome area, many individuals have received a citation while fishing from the riverbank; they were cited while fishing for salmon, and were not fishing from a man-made structure. Individuals were not making the snagging motion, just honestly fishing for salmon from the riverbank, casting and reeling in. Individuals have their favorite fishing lure that brings them good luck while fishing for salmon (example a 7/8 ounce Blue Fox Pixee). By regulation this lure is illegal when fishing for salmon, as the hook size is just a shade bigger than what is allowed. We strongly encourage the Board of Fish to consider adopting a small increment in hook size, or two (2) size increment, when fishing for salmon.

We do not condone snagging, fishing from bridges or other man-made objects as this provides an unfair advantage. However, individuals that are honestly trying to fish for salmon from the riverbank and are using a hook size larger than a #1 hook should not be punished or cited for just trying to put food on the table.

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

PROPOSED BY: Melanie Bahnke, Kawerak, Inc. President

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