

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 01.120. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Northwestern Area.

Allow the use of bow and arrow when subsistence fishing for non-salmon fish species in the Arctic-Kotzebue Area, as follows:

I am open to a variety of solutions to address this issue, including changing subsistence regulations or sport fishing regulations, and opening only the lower Noatak drainage to summer harvest or the entire subsistence or sport fishing management areas. I believe adopting one of the following changes to regulations would accommodate this request:

- Allow use of bow and arrow for subsistence harvest in the Arctic-Kotzebue Area. Proposed change in regulation required (that I'm aware of) would be:

*5AAC 01.120 (b) Fish other than salmon may be taken by set gillnet, drift gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, pot, longline, fyke net, dip net, jigging gear, spear, **bow and arrow**, and lead, or, as specified in (f) of this section, by hook and line attached to a rod or a pole.*

OR

- Allow harvest of pike under sport fishing regulations, year-round, in the Noatak River Drainage. Change in regulations required (that I'm aware of) would be:

*5 AAC 70.011 (c) **(10) in the Noatak River Drainage, northern pike may be taken by bow and arrow year-round.***

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the opportunity to harvest Northern pike using a bow and arrow during the summer in sloughs and lakes connected to the lower Noatak River. The current regulations do not allow for the harvest of Northern pike in Northwestern Drainages with bow and arrow May 1-August 31. Ice can be expected on waters of the lower Noatak from early October to late May, leaving September as the only practical time to attempt to harvest pike with a bow and arrow.

Use of bow and arrow allows for selective harvest of fish of a desirable size for consumption, without incidental catch of fish that are too small or too large. I do not anticipate an overall increase in harvest of pike in the Noatak drainage if use of bow and arrow were allowed in the summer as the harvest would likely be minimal, and would replace fish taken by other legal means (ie by hook and line or gill net under subsistence regulations).

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No. I will attend the Kotzebue Advisory Committee fall 2025 meeting to discuss the issue.

PROPOSED BY: Wilhelm Wiese

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