

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Prohibit multiple hooks in all fresh waters in the Yakutat Management Area, as follows:

Allow for single hook only sport angling in all fresh waters of the Yakutat area, Cape Fairweather to Cape Suckling, from January 1 to December 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A proposal to allow for single-hook only sport angling in all fresh waters of the Yakutat area, Cape Fairweather to Cape Suckling, from January 1 to December 31.

The reason for this is conservation. The committee met and discussion was heard. Complaints about fish lying dead in holes were heard. Discussion from sport fishing representatives stated that going to single hook would help reduce the amount of incidental mortality, while still allowing the angler the experience and opportunity to obtain their catch. A proposal to do this on the Situk River was recommended by Yakutat Advisory Committee, ratified by the Board of Fisheries, and went into effect in 2009. Since that time it has met with favorable results. While it was unknown if implementation had reduced mortality, there were no complaints from sport fishermen or related industry.

The Yakutat Advisory Committee considered implementing this proposal on other rivers of high sport use, but decided that expanding to all fresh waters was a simpler format and would be best for the welfare of the fish.

Left unchanged, there will continue to be an increased chance of incidental mortality with the currently allowed treble (3-barbed) hook, thereby hindering the number of returning spawners, lowering the number of returning stock, and reducing overall opportunity to anglers. The additional incidental mortality will add to the "dead fish on the bottom's unsightliness" as complained about by lodge owners.

This proposal should help fish recover from a release and improve survival rates. It should also be a benefit to all user groups with no one expected to be negatively impacted.

The Yakutat Advisory Committee considered adding the language: **single barbless**. There wasn't opposition to barbless, but it should be handled in a separate proposal, having had another chance for discussions. Should the board see fit to add this language, the advisory committee heard no opposition to it either.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-076)

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Prohibit multiple hooks and barbed hooks in all fresh waters of the Yakutat Management Area, as follows:

Proposal to restrict sport fishing in all fresh waters of the Yakutat area; Cape Fairweather to Cape Sukling, to single barbless hook only, with the exception of two single barbless hooks may be used in tandem when bait is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The reason for this is conservation. The committee met and discussion was heard. Complaints about fish lying dead in holes were heard. Discussion from sport fishing representatives stated that going to single hook would help reduce the amount of incidental mortality, while still allowing the angler the experience, and the opportunity to obtain their catch. A proposal to do this on the Situk River was recommended by Yakutat Advisory Committee, ratified by the Board of Fisheries, and went into effect in 2009. Since that time, it has met with favorable results. While it is unknown if implementation had reduced mortality, there were no complaints from sport fishermen, or related industry.

We considered just implementing it on other rivers of high sport use, but decided that expanding to all fresh waters was a simpler format, and would be best for the welfare of the fish.

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This proposal should help fish recover from a release, and improve survival rates. It should also be a benefit to all user groups, with no one expected to be negatively impacted.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-086)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area. Reduce the Yakutat Village Lagoon coho salmon bag and possession limits to two fish greater than 16 inches in length, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(b) In the Yakutat vicinity:

...

(3) in the waters of Yakutat Village Lagoon shoreward of Mallot Avenue, the bag and possession limit for coho salmon greater than 16 inches in length is two fish;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the coho salmon bag and possession limits for the Yakutat Village Lagoon are the least conservative on the Yakutat road system, causing angler effort to focus on this small, easily accessible drainage. Northern pike eradication efforts were completed in 2009 allowing coho salmon to recolonize this drainage. Given the small size of this drainage, accessibility from the Yakutat road system,

and recolonization by coho salmon, more conservative bag and possession limits are needed to protect the sustainability of this small coho salmon population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-087)

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Designate the Village Lagoon and the Village Lagoon drainage as a youth-only fishery, as follows:

A proposal to restrict angling in Village Lagoon and accompanying lakes to youth under the age of 18 only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We feel that given the proximity to the road system and the small size of the run, some means of control is in order. Too many anglers, as to ruin the experience or too much pressure on the stocks are the main concern. In addition the public hazards of an increasing number of cars parked along the highway with accompanying pedestrian issues. Restricting access to youth only will eliminate the traffic concerns, and yet provide a fun place to fish close by for kids. We feel there are plenty of other places to fish for the adults.

We do not feel anyone will be adversely affected.

We considered adding elderly and handicapped, but decided against adding these. It was felt there would still be the possibility of too many sport anglers who were eligible as seniors as to potentially be a problem, and we felt that there would be better places to consider for creating a handicapped fishing area.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-085)

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Allow the use of bait when sport fishing for salmon in the Kaliakh River, as follows:

Allow sport fishing using bait for salmon in the Kaliakh River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to change the sport fishing regulation to allow using bait in the Kaliakh River since it is a silty river and has not been commercial fished in years and it would help take a little pressure off the Tsiu River.

PROPOSED BY: Harold Perantie (EF-C14-114)

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Establish an effective date of April 1 for the District 11 sport fishery for king salmon and rescind the closure in upper Taku Inlet, as follows:

1. Establish the waters of upper Taku Inlet as permanently opened
2. Set the effective date for the D-11 fishery at April 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce unnecessary regulatory action on the Juneau Area king salmon sport fishery. Juneau anglers fish under three sets of king regulations: 1) Southeast King Management Plan; 2) Taku River king salmon fishery in salt waters of District 11 and 3) a designated terminal harvest area (THA) fishery for hatchery king salmon. The complexity associated with these inseason regulatory changes is confusing to anglers. The intent of this proposal is to reduce unnecessary regulatory action. Amendments to these regulations may have allocative implications.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-032)

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Open freshwaters along the Juneau road system to sport fishing for hatchery-produced king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(e)(1) is amended to read:

(e) In the Juneau vicinity:

(1) in all drainages crossed by the Juneau road system,

(A) unless otherwise specified in [(B) – (J) OF] this paragraph,

...

(vi) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is four fish; no size limit; king salmon harvested by a nonresident angler does not count toward that angler's nonresident annual limit;

...

(M) in Fish Creek Pond from June 1 – August 31,

(i) the use of bait, weighted hooks and lures, and multiple hooks with a gap between point and shank larger than one-half inch are permitted; and

(ii) king salmon hooked elsewhere than in the mouth may be retained.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 1993, Juneau freshwater drainages crossed by the road system have been opened to sport fishing for king salmon by emergency order to allow for harvest of hatchery-produced king salmon. Establishing

this freshwater fishery in regulation would eliminate confusion among sport anglers without causing a conservation concern since there are no indigenous king salmon stocks on the Juneau road system.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-089)

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Open freshwaters along the Juneau road system to sport fishing for hatchery-produced king salmon, as follows:

- (e) In Juneau vicinity:
 - (1) in all drainages crossed by the current Juneau road system
 - (A) unless otherwise specified in (B) – (J) of this paragraph:
 - (vi) the bag and possession limit for king salmon is four fish of any size, king salmon harvested by nonresident anglers do not count toward the annual limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hatchery king salmon are released in and around several freshwater drainages on the current Juneau road system and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has issued an emergency order to allow harvest opportunity for these fish on an annual basis since 1993. This proposal would open king salmon fishing year round in the fresh water drainages crossed by the current Juneau road system and eliminate confusion over when and where king salmon fishing is allowed. There are no wild indigenous stocks of king salmon on the Juneau road system.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee (HQ-F14-033)

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Repeal the Eagle River Beach area Dolly Varden sport fishery closure, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(d)(4) is repealed:

- (d) In the Juneau vicinity:

...

(4) repealed / / [IN THE WATERS OF EAGLE RIVER BEACH, FROM THE BOY SCOUT CAMP NORTH TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED ON THE MAINLAND SHORE AT THE LATITUDE OF SENTINEL ISLAND LIGHT AT 58° 32.78' N. LAT., 134° 55.27 W. LONG., TO A DISTANCE ONE-QUARTER MILE OFFSHORE, DOLLY VARDEN MAY ONLY BE TAKEN FROM JUNE 1–MARCH 31];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Retention of Dolly Varden in the Eagle River Beach/Boy Scout Beach area north of Juneau is prohibited from April 1 – May 31. This closure went into effect in 1983 due to concerns over declining catch rates and

harvest in the Juneau roadside fishery. Current harvest and escapement data indicate the Dolly Varden stocks present along the Juneau road system shoreline are stable and therefore a closure is no longer necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-088)

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Allow the use of bait from September 15 through October 15 when sport fishing in the Klawock River, as follows:

"Allow the use of bait in the Klawock River System (River and Lake) from September 15 through October 15 of each year".

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Committee C Summary at the Board of Fisheries Southeast and Yakutat Finfish Meeting on March 1, 2012 regarding Proposal 263, 5 AAC 47.023, discussed the prohibition of the use of bait in the Klawock River.

Reasons given (at this meeting) were used to restrict the use of bait in the Klawock River from September 15 through October 15 of each year. These reasons are in question.

Discussion follows:

1. There are no "wild run" coho in the Klawock River. There is a wild spawning area up in the Klawock Lake area, but there is no wild coho run associated with the run. There has been a hatchery on the Klawock River since 1892, releasing smolts back into the river for over 120 years. I also understand that the hatchery started raising coho and releasing coho smolts in the early 1900's; about 1912. Therefore, no true "wild run coho" can possibly exist in the Klawock River.

2. I have personally fished the rivers all over the Prince of Wales Island for the past 37 years (since 1978.) This year will be my 34th year fishing the Klawock River. None of my fishing partners over these years have ever caught or have even seen any other fisherman catch or even view either a steelhead or cutthroat trout in the September 15 through October 15 timeframe.

3. There is absolutely no logical reason for a bait fisherman to select a female coho over a male coho. A male coho is normally a bigger fish and will be better eating than a female that was just filled with eggs. There are always plenty of female coho in our catches to provide all the bait needed without selecting.

4. The use of bait has never increased the mortality rate of released coho. We keep what we catch. You will find that most bait fishermen are meat fishermen. We like to get on the rivers early, catch our fish, and get them to the processor as soon as possible. Using non-bait fishing equipment can easily double or triple fishing time on the river, and can actually keep other fishermen from accessing the river. This could also help other fishermen to find another place to fish (and spend their money). In my opinion and experience, I get more "foul hooked" fish when

using either a fly or a spinner, because a coho will take a bait directly into their mouth, whereas with a fly or a spinner you are actually dragging your equipment over their backs and into their heads, eyes, dorsal fins, and tails. I expect the mortality rate for non-bait fishing equipment could actually be higher than with bait.

PROPOSED BY: Jerald E. Ogburn (EF-C14-044)

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Allow the use of bait after September 15 when sport fishing for coho salmon in the Klawock River, as follows:

Allow the use of bait in the Klawock River after September 15 for coho salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have fished on Prince of Wales Island for some time now. In my opinion, I see no reason to close the Klawock River to bait fishing. In the past few years, having to fish the Klawock with spinners or flies has resulted in foul-hooking coho, requiring the release of damaged coho. Fishing with bait in the Harris resulted in very few foul-hooked fish.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Fortner (EF-C14-069)

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Repeal Ketchikan Creek harvest regulations applying to adipose fin-clipped steelhead, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(i)(6)(D) is repealed:

(i) In the Ketchikan vicinity:

...

(6) in Ketchikan Creek, excluding City Park Ponds,

...

(D) **repealed** / / [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR STEELHEAD IS TWO FISH IF ONE OF THE FISH HAS A CLIPPED ADIPOSE FIN, AS EVIDENCED BY A HEALED SCAR];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hatchery-produced steelhead are no longer released in Ketchikan Creek, making the regulation allowing retention of hatchery-produced steelhead, identified by a clipped adipose fin, misleading and unnecessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-092)
