

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.
Allow only one single-hook or one single-hook lure, as follows:

Kenai River – Lower Kenai River Mainstem and Skilak Lake

Add; under METHODS AND MEANS

Gear restrictions:

- **In flowing waters, Only one single – hook or one single – hook lure may be used**

Delete; All other mention of hook types in this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? On the Kenai River there are multiple and confusing regulations concerning when single or multiple hooks may be used and where on the river multiple hooks are allowed.

Multiple hooks cause unnecessary damage to fish caught incidentally and to those deemed to small to keep, resulting in increased mortality, especially when bait is also allowed. Multiple hook plugs used in the trout fishery cause a lot of mouth, gill-plate and eye injury and using multiple hooks on Coho increases mortality on lost and released fish, with a species that is already known to have very high mortality rates anyway.

Single hooks are all that are needed for anglers to successfully catch all species of fish on the Kenai River. Single hooks make it easier to release fish. We are facing uncertain times in our fisheries abundance cycles and user demands on our resources are expected to increase. Catch and release methods are already the mainstay of our successful trout fishery and they are becoming more prevalent as a step up measure in our King fishery, so any measure that makes it easier to release fish and reduce mortality just makes since in these changing times.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Area Fisherman’s Coalition

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