

PROPOSAL 229 - 5 AAC 61.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 6 of the Susitna River Drainage Area. Reduce the maximum legal size for rainbow trout in Byers Creek from 20 to 16 inches, as follows:

The solution we propose to the current regulation allowing individuals to keep one Rainbow Trout over 20 inches during the times in which it is permitted is to: reduce the authorized size to no longer than 16 inches, while still maintaining a 2 fish per day limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to address the issue of Rainbow Trout that are of maturity to reproduce, i.e. 16 inches or longer, being kept on Byers Creek. If changes are not made to the current regulations set in place, depletion of a **NATURAL** trout stock will be the consequence. Depletion being defined as: reduction of average size, a decrease in the overall population, as well as having an adverse effect on the genetics of the fishery (if a large fish is kept, the genetics go with it). There is an alternative solution we had considered, but rejected due to the fact it would not be correct. To make the creek catch and release would only infringe on the right to keep a fish if they choose to, something all fisherman have done. However keeping a fish over 16 inches in length is significant because when you remove such a specimen from the population, you are not only taking that fish, but of all its potential offspring, and their potential offspring..and so on.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Hallsten, Parker Wallace, Thys Grogan, Austin Gibbs (EF-F16-007)
