

PROPOSAL 198

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.

Amend the open season for Dolly Varden in Auke Bay, as follows:

This regulation currently reads as follows: "In the waters of Auke Bay, east of a line from Waydelich (Wadleigh) Creek to and ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile south of the mouth of Auke Creek, Dolly Varden may be taken only from June 1 - March 31"

I would like the Board to amend the relevant part of this regulation to read: "south of the mouth of Auke Creek, Dolly Varden may be taken only from July 1 - April 30"

The proposed change to this regulation simply shifts the closed season in order to allow local Dolly sport fishing to occur in May and June. The existing and proposed regulation both keep the waters closed for 2 months; the proposed simply shifts the period when Dolly fishing may occur from April and May, to May and June.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a very healthy population of Dolly Varden in the area defined by this regulation. There is no heavy sport fishing pressure on Dolly Varden in this area. Auke Lake feeds Auke Creek and Dolly Varden are the major predator of salmon fry migrating out of Auke Lake and Auke Creek, where there is a NMFS salmon hatchery. The closure authorized by the existing regulation prohibits Dolly fishing when there are Dolly Varden present in the defined waters; before and after April and May, there are no Dolly Varden present at all, because there is nothing for them to prey on. Changing the regulation to allow Dolly Varden fishing in May and June would give sport anglers like me a chance to actually take our kids there to actually try to catch a Dolly.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Weyhrauch

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