

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

Amend sockeye salmon regulations in the Gulkana River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023(9)(D), (18)(A) and (B), and (20)(A) and (B) are amended to read:

(9) in the Gulkana River drainage,

(D) in all flowing waters from 100 yards upstream from the narrows at the Paxson Lake outlet downstream to the confluence with the Middle Fork,

(i) sport fishing for [KING] salmon is closed; [KING] salmon may not be taken or possessed;

[(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM SEPTEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 31;]

(18) in Paxson Lake,

(A) **repealed** / / . [IN THE WATERS 100 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE NARROWS AT THE LAKE OUTLET TO WITHIN A 100-YARD RADIUS OF THE MOUTH OF THE EAST FORK OF THE GULKANA RIVER AT THE NORTH END OF PAXSON LAKE,

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON IS CLOSED; KING SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JULY 20 — DECEMBER 31;

(iii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(v) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(B) **repealed** / / . [IN THE REMAINDER OF PAXSON LAKE, NOT SPECIFIED IN (A) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON IS CLOSED; SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iii) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(C) sport fishing for salmon is closed; salmon may not be taken or possessed

(D) rainbow/steelhead trout may not be retained or possessed; all rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(E) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is five fish, of which only one may be 14 inches or greater in length;

(F) the bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish, with no size limit

(20) in the Summit Lake drainage,

(A) **repealed / / .** [IN SUMMIT LAKE FROM ITS OUTLET TO WITHIN A 100-YARD RADIUS OF THE MOUTH OF GUNN CREEK,]

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON IS CLOSED; KING SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JULY 20 — DECEMBER 31, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF THREE FISH GREATER THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH, AND A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF 10 FISH 16 INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;

(iii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR BURBOT IS TWO FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;

(v) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(vi) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(B) **repealed / / .** [IN ALL WATERS OF THE GUNN CREEK DRAINAGE AND ALL WATERS WITHIN A 100-YARD RADIUS OF THE MOUTH OF GUNN CREEK AT SUMMIT LAKE,

(i) SPORT FISHING FOR KING SALMON IS CLOSED; KING SALMON MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(ii) SALMON, OTHER THAN KING SALMON, MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM AUGUST 1 — DECEMBER 31, WITH A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF THREE FISH GREATER THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH, AND A BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF 10 FISH 16 INCHES OR LESS IN LENGTH;

(iii) RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OR POSSESSED; ALL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED;

(iv) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR BURBOT IS TWO FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;

(v) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR ARCTIC GRAYLING IS TWO FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE MAY BE 14 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH;

(vi) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LAKE TROUT IS ONE FISH, WITH NO SIZE LIMIT;]

(C) sport fishing for salmon is closed; salmon may not be taken or possessed;

(D) rainbow/steelhead trout may not be retained or possessed; all rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(E) the bag and possession limit for burbot is two fish, with no size limit;

(F) the bag and possession limit for Arctic grayling is two fish, of which only one may be 14 inches or greater in length;

(G) the bag and possession limit for lake trout is one fish, with no size limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Seasonal closures for sockeye salmon in the Gulkana River drainage were established to protect specific sockeye salmon stocks within the drainage. However, complete closure of these fisheries is a better protection for these stocks and greatly simplifies area sport fish regulations, reducing confusion by the sport anglers.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-122)
