

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 01.244. Minto Flats Northern Pike Management Plan.

Expand waters closed to subsistence harvest of northern pike in the Chatanika River drainage downstream of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area boundary, adopt a maximum size limit, and reduce the bag limit, as follows:

Increase the closure to the first two miles upstream of the Chatanika/Goldstream confluence, with a seasonal bag and possession limit of the first ten fish caught with only two of those over 30". This will don't adversely affect the subsistence fishery since this will adversely affect the Chatanika River Harvest Area - the rest of the Chatanika upstream 10 miles, 28 miles downstream, Goldstream Creek, Minto Flats, and the Tatalina and Tolovana Rivers are still open to subsistence fishing year-round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently changed the regulations from a 3 mile closure in the Chatanika River Harvest Area to a 1 mile closure due to an ACR initiated by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee. This is causing an excessive number of the large spawning fertile females in this area to be harvested.

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(EF-F18-079)
