

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana Area.

Allow harvest of Arctic grayling in the Delta Clearwater River, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(5) is amended to read:

(5) in the Delta Clearwater River drainage, including the Clearwater Lake drainage, [ARCTIC GRAYLING MAY BE TAKEN BY CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING ONLY, EXCEPT THAT FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, A PERSON MAY RETAIN ARCTIC GRAYLING, WITH A] **the** bag and possession limit **for Arctic grayling is** [OF]one fish, 12 inches or less in length; all Arctic grayling caught that are greater than 12 inches in length must be released immediately;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent of the current 12-inch maximum size limit was to afford anglers the opportunity to harvest an Arctic grayling while maintaining the attributes of this fishery. Per the *Tanana River Area Wild Arctic Grayling Management Plan*, the Delta Clearwater River is managed under a special management approach that provides for high catch rates of large fish and a reasonable opportunity to catch a trophy sized Arctic grayling (i.e. 18 inches). The harvest level of fish <12 inches has been minimal with annual harvests averaging ~100 fish since implementation of this regulation in 2001. Arctic grayling are present in the Delta Clearwater River by April and anglers are not provided harvest opportunities until June. Additional harvest of Arctic grayling <12 inches resulting from this proposal is expected to be sustainable. Removal of the seasonal closure would also simplify regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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