

PROPOSAL 77

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

Allow sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 74.010(c)(15) is amended to read:

(15) **repealed** / / . [IN LITTLE HARDING LAKE, SPORT FISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE IS CLOSED;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2013, stocking of rainbow trout was terminated in Little Harding Lake and fishing for northern pike was closed. The intent of these actions were 1) to protect the newly established northern pike population, which was first documented in 2010, and 2) the department believed that a satisfactory rainbow trout fishery could not coexist with a northern pike population. Sampling in 2016 demonstrated that a population of very large-sized rainbow trout was present with an average size exceeding 24 inches. The sampling also identified very good recruitment of northern pike based on observations and catch sampling. Allowing sport fishing for northern pike in Little Harding Lake would provide a new opportunity for roadside anglers looking to catch or retain northern pike, and the harvest of northern pike would help to alleviate predation on stocked rainbow trout. There are other stocked lakes in the Tanana Area (Cushman Lake and Bathing Beauty Pond) where northern pike and rainbow trout coexist and support high-use fisheries for both species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-032)
