

PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Prohibit sport fishing from a motorized vessel on the lower Kenai River on Thursdays in July, as follows:

5 AAC 57.121 would be amended to read:

(a) a person may not sport fish from a boat

(New Section) that has a motor on board on any Thursday in July, except Memorial Day, in that portion of the Kenai River from its mouth upstream to the Sterling Highway Bridge.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the month of July, the Kenai River has been classified as an impaired water body due to increased turbidity levels. The increased turbidity has been significantly associated with increased motorized boat traffic on the river in July.

This proposal seeks to add an additional drift boat only day each week on the Kenai River for both guided and nonguided anglers, occurring each Thursday in July from the mouth of the river upstream to the Sterling Highway bridge. Currently, from the Sterling Highway Bridge downstream to the mouth of the Kenai River, no one may fish on Mondays (except Memorial Day) during May, June, and July from a vessel that has on board no more than one motor that does not exceed 10 horsepower (HP), and it may only be used between the mouth of the Kenai River and ADF&G regulatory markers located at Cunningham Park, and only after fishing from the vessel has ceased for that day; a person may not deploy sport fishing gear from a vessel after a motor has been used to propel that vessel on the same day. In order to provide one more day of “rest” for the Kenai River from the effects of motorized boat wake traffic, this proposal seeks to add one additional day per week that guided or unguided anglers may not fish using a motorized vessel on the Lower Kenai River (downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge) during the month of July. No motor traffic on the river, on Mondays and Thursdays. (This includes boat traffic to the dip net fishery is prohibited.)

PROPOSED BY: Chris Every

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