

PROPOSAL 214

5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; and 5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area.

Prohibit live release of northern pike in the Anchorage Bowl and Knik River drainages, as follows:

5 AAC 59.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes; **a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike;**

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. During the 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, a proposal was passed prohibiting the live release of northern pike in the West Cook Inlet and all units of the Susitna River Drainage, areas where stocks of concern had been identified. However, the remaining waters in southcentral containing northern pike were not included in that proposal. Expanding mandatory retention throughout the southcentral Alaska promotes consistency in regulation between adjacent management areas and reduces predation through pike suppression.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-144)
