PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions — Finfish.

Redefine the area prohibited to snagging in Cook Inlet salt waters, as follows:

5 AAC 58.030 is amended to read:

- (c) A person may not intentionally snag or attempt to snag any species of fish in the waters of Cook Inlet north of a line from <u>Bluff Point (59° 40.00'N. lat.)</u> [ANCHOR POINT] [AND MAY NOT INTENTIONALLY SNAG OR ATTEMPT TO SNAG ANY SPECIES OF FISH IN THE WATERS EAST OF A LINE FROM ANCHOR POINT TO POINT POGIBSHI FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 23.] A person who snags a fish in these locations shall release it immediately. Except as specified in (d) of this section, a person may snag or attempt to snag any species of fish in the waters <u>south of a line from Bluff Point (59° 40.00'N. lat.)</u> [EAST OF A LINE FROM ANCHOR POINT TO POINT POGIBSHI] from <u>January 1</u> [JUNE 24] through December 31.
- (d) From <u>January 1</u> [JUNE 24] through December 31, expect during periods established by emergency order, a person may not intentionally snag or attempt to snag any species of fish from the Homer city dock near the entrance of the Homer Boat Harbor, including the entire Homer Boat Harbor, northwest along the east side of the Homer Spit to an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 200 yards northwest of the entrance to the fishery enhanced lagoon on Homer Spit, to a distance 300 feet from shore.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Snagging regulations in Cook Inlet salt waters are not currently aligned with other sport fishing regulations. Moving the Anchor Point boundary to the latitude of Bluff Point would continue to prohibit snagging year-round in Upper Cook Inlet and allow snagging year-round in Lower Cook Inlet. This would simplify sport fishing regulations by standardizing the boundary between Lower and Upper Cook Inlet to Bluff Point. The regulatory date snagging closure for the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon would need to be changed to maintain the closure year-round.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-152)