

Westside Cook Inlet Area (4 proposals)

**PROPOSAL 230**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow retention of snagged sockeye salmon in the Big River Lakes and Wolverine Creek, as follows:

Sockeye salmon may be retained that are not hooked in the mouth in the big river lakes & wolverine creek fishery. The current single hook size regulation will be retained.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Big River lakes, & wolverine sockeye fishery takes place in a lake with no current, it is 100% impossible to hook these fish in the mouth. Hundreds of anglers fish this remote fishery every day, mostly with guides. The vast majority of the fish retained in this fishery are not hooked in the mouth, making all the anglers & guides in this fishery criminals. This is a snag fishery plain & simple & everybody knows it so making this fishery legal would be in the fisheries best interest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Adam Housh

(EF-F19-051)

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**PROPOSAL 231**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Establish limits in the Big River Drainage of two salmon 16" or greater in length, as follows:

**(17) in the big river drainage, including wolverine creek, the bag and possession limit is two salmon 16 inches or greater in length**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Concern for the increasing fishing pressure and exploitation of the Sockeye and Coho salmon runs in the Big River drainage. This change would help to alleviate depletion of the stocks while not having a substantial effect on sportfish opportunities. It would also allow for a more orderly and expeditious fishery at the "line up" at Wolverine Creek.

**PROPOSED BY:** Danny Brewer (EF-F19-067)  
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**PROPOSAL 232**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Close a section of the south fork of Big River to sport fishing, as follows:

**the south fork of big river is closed to sportfishing upstream from a ADF&G regulatory marker located at the first island approximately 3/4 mile upstream from the confluence at Otter Lake**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To protect the spawning beds that are vulnerable to fishing exploitation on the South Fork of the Big River upstream from the island approximately 3/4 mile from the confluence with Otter Lake. Besides the spawning beds, there is very little sportfishing opportunity upstream from this point so the impact on fishing will be minimal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Danny Brewer (EF-F19-068)  
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**PROPOSAL 233**

**5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.**

Allow fishing for fish, other than salmon, in upper Threemile Creek and the Threemile Lake outlet, as follows:

5 AAC 62.122 is amended to read:

(12) Threemile Creek is closed to sport fishing **for salmon** upstream from the Beluga Tyonek Road culvert to Threemile/Tukhallah Lake;

(13) Threemile/Tukhallah Lake is

(A) closed to sport fishing **for salmon** within a 300-foot radius of the lake outlet;

**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. Pike have been spreading to systems on the west side of Cook Inlet and have had detrimental impacts on systems such as the Threemile Creek Drainage.

The highest density of northern pike occurs in the Threemile Lake outlet and the upper part of Threemile Creek where they predate on the few remaining coho salmon fry and smolts naturally funneled into that narrow area. The area in the vicinity of the lake outlet was closed to all sport fishing to protect spawning sockeye salmon. If open to northern pike fishing, anglers could fish where northern pike densities are highest and potentially assist salmon recovery in this system.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-145)

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