

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 47.036. Prohibitions.

Prohibit the removal of salmon from the water when nonretention regulations apply and prohibit the use of a multiple hook in Southeast Alaska sport fisheries, as follows:

1. It is prohibited to remove from either freshwater or saltwater a salmon for unhooking, if it is unlawful to retain such a salmon by a sport fisher. (In simple terms this prohibits removing a salmon from the water for dehooking and releasing; it reduces handling stress, therefore).

2. It is prohibited to use multiple hooks when sport fishing for any species of fish in either freshwater or saltwater, where a multiple hook is one with two or more points with or without barbs extending from a common shaft. (In simple terms this makes treble hooks illegal throughout Southeast Alaska for all sportfishing).

Restrictions 1 and 2 go together because it is so difficult to unhook a treble-hooked shaker in the water if hooked by two or more barbs of a treble hook. Doing so with a single hook is easy with a commonly used, relatively undamaging method. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife enforces precisely these two regulations to reduce hooking and handling mortality of released salmon, and describes the undamaging release technique in easy detail in their regulation pamphlets.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The critical status of Chinook Salmon that contribute to Southeast Alaska sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries; specifically the incidental mortality rate of Chinook Salmon that must be legally released from sport gear due to non-retention or size limit restrictions. These two related restrictions would reduce that incidental mortality rate.

PROPOSED BY: Stephen Mathews

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