

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 74.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish

Prohibit retention of northern pike caught on set lines in the Tanana River drainage, as follows:

(c) A spear or bow and arrow may be used to take suckers and burbot. Unless prohibited in 5 AAC 74.010, northern pike and whitefish, except sheefish, may be speared by a person who is completely submerged at any time, and, from September 1 through April 30, may be taken by spear or bow and arrow.

(d) Retention of pike caught on set lines is prohibited in lakes and flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Confusion has arisen among anglers in the Tanana River drainage as to whether northern pike caught on set lines may be targeted and/or retained. Multiple in-person and social media arguments and discussion in the last several years observed by members of the Midnight Sun Fly Casters have illuminated that the regulations booklet does not clearly state whether pike caught on burbot setlines may be retained. When members of the Midnight Sun Fly Casters have discussed the specifics and the intent of regulations for set lines with officials, Alaska State Troopers and Fisheries Management Biologists have indicated that pike cannot be targeted and retained, as this gear type is intended only for capture of burbot. The ambiguity in the regulations has led to multiple observations of anglers retaining pike caught on set lines, because they were unable to interpret the regulations. Therefore, we propose a clearer statement be included in the regulations that will minimize angler confusion and honor the intent of set line regulations, so that northern pike are not targeted/retained and their populations are not depleted to the detriment of other sport anglers.

PROPOSED BY: Midnight Sun Fly Casters

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