

**PROPOSAL 71**

**5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.**

Remove the size limit for lake trout in Fielding Lake, as follows:

In Fielding Lake, allow retention of one lake trout of any size.

Proposed regulatory language

(c)(9)(B) in Fielding Lake, lake trout may be taken only from October 1 through August 31, with a bag and possession limit of one fish [, WHICH MUST BE 26 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH; ALL LAKE TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE LESS THAN 26 INCHES IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Fielding Lake, the current regulation allows harvest of 1 lake trout over 26 inches in total length. If nothing is changed, the restrictions will continue to deny anglers opportunity to harvest lake trout less than 26 inches.

The length limit concentrates fishing on the oldest and largest fish, which reduces the number of bigger fish available to anglers, prevents anglers from retaining a “foul-hooked” fish, and denies anglers the opportunity to choose the size of lake trout to harvest. Many anglers have stated that they would like to keep a dinner sized lake trout (14-20 inches), rather than a lake trout >26 inches.

Based on staff comments presented in 2019, ADF&G stated that the 26-in length limit results in a sustainable yield of 78 fish. Based on the department’s angler surveys, harvest have been well below this level. Removal of the length limit would allow a total annual harvest or yield of 202 lake trout. The length limit is unnecessarily restrictive. Similar removals of the length limit did not increased harvests in the Copper River lakes such as Paxson, Summit, Louise, Crosswind, and Susitna Lake.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Advisory Committee Fisheries Sub-Committee (HQ-F22-038)

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