

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Expand the boundary of the Ninilchik River Youth-Only fishery as follows:

5 AAC 56.122 (a)(6) Ninilchik River Drainage:

(G) the Ninilchik River from **its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately two miles upstream** [THE OUTLET OF THE NINILCHIK SMALL BOAT HARBOR TO ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS JUST UPSTREAM FROM THE STERLING HIGHWAY BRIDGE] is open to sport fishing to a person under 16 years of age during the designated youth fishery which occurs on the second Wednesday after Memorial Day between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m.; king salmon bag and possession limit is one king salmon of any size; annual limit and other restrictions specified in (a)(6)(D)(iii) of this section apply; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006; a person who takes and retains a king salmon may not sport fish in the Ninilchik River for the rest of that day

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As a parent of two grade-school aged kids, I am very appreciative of the youth only fishing days that Alaska sets aside for children under 16. I believe this is a great way to get young kids interested in fishing and provides them with a real opportunity to catch a fish. With that said, I'd like to see the restrictions on where you can fish during the Ninilchik River youth-only fishing day (June 7th this year) removed. There are currently no restrictions (from mouth to 2 miles upstream) on where adults can fish during the 23 days that the river is open to King Salmon fishing during the primary run (Memorial Day weekend thru June). However, for the one day that fishing is set aside for kids, the regulations limit where you can fish to downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge. I think this is a shame. Kids are not nearly as capable as adults, and effort should be taken on this one day to make access more available, not less available. Is the concern that kids are going to take away opportunities from the adults? Additionally, the primary camping site is on the upstream side of the bridge, so the current regulation prevents a family from being able to camp at the campground and walk their children down to the river to fish. Instead, you'd have to pack your kids back up in the car, pack up fishing gear, drive to a new place and park, then walk down and hope to find a place to fish. By the time you do all that, everyone's tired and ready to be done. I'd ask that you please consider revising the regulation for the youth only fishing day by opening the river to fishing from the mouth of the Ninilchik to the ADF&G markers two miles upstream. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Seth Anderson

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