

**PROPOSAL 222**

**5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area.**

Increase the Susitna River drainage sport fish limits for pink salmon as follows:

5 AAC 61.110. General Provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area

...

(2) Salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length may be taken from January 1 — December 31: bag and possession limit **for chum, sockeye, and coho salmon** is three fish, of which not more than 2 per day and 2 in possession may be coho salmon, **and in addition the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Opportunities for sport fishermen to catch and harvest salmon in the Susitna River drainage are often limited by salmon abundance and conservative regulations deemed necessary to protect less abundant, or more desirable salmon species and other fish stocks. Pink salmon are the most abundant salmon in the Susitna River drainage. In addition because of their smaller size, and to many people, less palatable flavor, many commercial users in saltwater, freshwater personal use permit holders, and even sport fishermen within the Susitna River drainage choose to release rather than harvest abundant pink salmon.

In order to better maximize the benefit from this abundant, but very under-utilized salmon resource, I propose amending the Susitna River drainage salmon sport fishery bag and possession limit consistent with how the board successfully modified the sport fishery salmon bag and possession limit on the Kenai River, to better maximize benefit from pink salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Farley Dean

(EF-F23-046)

\*\*\*\*\*