

PROPOSAL 223

5 AAC 61.185. Special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area.

Redefine the special management areas for rainbow trout in the Susitna River Drainage Area as follows:

(c) rainbow trout catch-and-release special management areas are those waters managed to maintain historical size and age distributions. the rainbow trout catch-and-release special management areas in the Susitna River drainage area are the following:

- (1) that portion of the Deshka River upstream from the forks;
- (2) the north fork of the Kashwitna River;
- (3) Fish Creek (in the Talkeetna River drainage);
- (4) the Talachulitna River and all waters within a three-quarter mile radius of its confluence with the Skwentna River;
- (5) the Lake Creek drainage upstream from an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately one-quarter mile upstream of Bulchitna Lake;
- (6) X Lake;
- (7) Montana Creek drainage;
- (8) Willow Creek, below the Parks Highway;
- (9) Alexander Creek;
- (10) Canyon Creek; and
- (11) Prairie Creek.

(12) the Susitna River, from Alexander Creek to Devils Canyon from September 15-May 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Various tagging studies have shown that seasonal movements of rainbow trout in the Susitna River drainage show a bulk of the fish overwintering in the mainstem Susitna, Talkeetna, and Chulitna Rivers where they are susceptible to being over exploited due to lack of bait restrictions and allowable harvest. The proposed addition would allow for bait when fishing for burbot due to 5AAC 61.110 (7) and bait would be allowed for coho fishing in the early fall, thus having minimal impact on other fisheries while protecting overwintering congregations of trout from already designated special management areas.

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