

**PROPOSAL 234**

**5 AAC 60.105. Description of the Knik Arm Drainages Area.**

Clarify the northern boundary of the Knik Arm management area and the Palmer-Wasilla Zone and exclude certain flowing waters from the Palmer-Wasilla Zone as follows:

5 AAC 60.105 is amended to read:

...

The Knik Arm Drainages Area consists of all freshwater drainages bounded on the north by **the southern boundary of the Willow Creek drainage** [WILLOW CREEK], on the west by a line one-half mile east of the Susitna River, on the south by Cook Inlet and Knik Arm, and on the east by the Upper Susitna River drainage upstream of its confluence with the Oshetna River.

5 AAC 60.122(a)(1) is amended to read:

...

(1) From June 15 – April 14, the flowing waters of the Palmer-Wasilla Zone are open to sport fishing; the Palmer-Wasilla Zone consists of all flowing waters inside a zone bounded on the north by Willow Creek **drainage**, on the west by a line one-half mile east of the Susitna River, on the south by Cook Inlet and Knik Arm, and on the east by the Matanuska River and Moose Creek, but excluding Willow Creek **drainage**, the Matanuska River, [AND] Moose Creek, **Goose Creek, and Nancy Lake Creek upstream of Lynx Lake Road.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current description of the northern boundary identifies Willow Creek as the divide between the Knik Arm management area and Unit 2 of the Susitna River. This has caused confusion for some anglers as Deception Creek and Willow chain lakes flow into Willow Creek from the south, thereby appearing to be in the Knik Arm area; however, the full Willow Creek drainage, including Deception Creek and Willow chain lakes, is contained in Unit 2 of the Susitna River area in regulation. This change would align the area description with how the general and special regulations for both management areas are laid out in regulation. The same change is also appropriate to clarify the northern boundary of the Palmer-Wasilla Zone.

Northern pike have become prolific in certain flowing waters within the Palmer-Wasilla Zone, but springtime closure of flowing waters within the zone designed to protect spawning rainbow trout, also protect northern pike in certain waters where they have taken a stronghold. Excluding certain flowing waters where nearly only northern pike exist would increase northern pike harvest in those waters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-012)

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