

PROPOSAL 244

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

Define the mouth of Fish Creek as follows:

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

...

(A) [THE WATERS FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATE AT ITS MOUTH] **from its mouth, including all waters within a ¼ mile radius of its confluence with Knik Arm,** upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road, are open to sport fishing every Saturday and Sunday June 15 through July 14, and beginning the second Saturday in August through December 31 on Saturdays and Sundays from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except that sport fishing for king salmon is closed;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulatory markers posted at the mouth of Fish Creek do not adequately delineate fresh vs. salt water because the markers, due to large tidal fluctuations, must be posted at a higher elevation, well upstream of mean low tide that distinguishes fresh from salt water in statewide regulations. Special regulations that restrict salmon harvest in the Fish Creek sport fishery to three salmon per day of which only two may be a coho salmon and limit fishing to weekend only, currently do not conserve salmon caught within the Fish Creek channel downstream of the markers where sport fishing under saltwater regulations is allowed seven days per week, with six salmon allowed per day. Returning to the definition for fresh waters given in statewide regulations and adding a quarter-mile radius to the freshwater determination, will ensure special regulations developed for Fish Creek salmon conserve all salmon entering the Fish Creek channel that are bound for Fish Creek.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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