

**PROPOSAL 138**

**5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area**

Prohibit snagging in the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, as follows:

Solution: Within the boundaries of the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge, snagging is prohibited. Fish caught elsewhere than the mouth (snagged) must be released immediately. The use non tradition gear including lead weighted and/or lead wrapped treble hooks is prohibited. Regional freshwater regulations apply, except bait is legal year-round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Problem: A portion of the chinook and silver salmon returning to the McCauley fish hatchery enter the Gastineau Channel/Mendenhall Refuge from the northeast end and use the high tide cycle to cross the Refuge to return to the hatchery. During the low tide cycle, the waters within the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge drain and flow like a stream or river. During the low portion of the tide, the salmon tend to concentrate in pools just the same as if they are in a stream or river. This creates a superb shore-based sport angling opportunity for people using traditional sport fishing and flyfishing gear. Anglers using non-traditional methods (snagging) often disrespect and interfere with anglers using traditional means creating an unpleasant and unsporting fishing atmosphere.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** I brought it up to the Juneau Advisory Committee for discussion and endorsement which passed for endorsement. I've submitted a refined version which I will bring up at the fall committee meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael Cole

(HQ-F24-111)

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