

PROPOSAL 182

5 AAC 75.XXX. New Section.

Establish bow fishing as lawful sport fishing gear for species without a bag or possession limit, as follows:

Establish bow fishing as a legal method and means for species in freshwater without a bag or possession limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bowfishing opportunities are varied across Alaska. I would like to see the opportunity broadened to include all freshwater species without a bag/possession limit. This would also allow any invasive species to be immediately targeted by individuals while bowfishing, without further regulation needed. In the South-Central region I would expect northern pike, whitefish, suckers, and blackfish to be the primary targets. Of these, whitefish and suckers currently have little demand, and this would provide an effective means of targeting these species that are harder to entice with normal gear.

This opportunity would come with a risk of non-target species being taken by accident or by intentional disregard of the regulations. However, I do not believe the risk is significantly higher than other methods and means, as bowfishing requires visualization of the fish, potentially reducing the impact on non-target species compared to rod and reel fishing.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Discussed with ADFG biologists in the Anchorage, Dillingham, and Palmer offices.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Warta

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