

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. Create a youth-only fishery on Anchor, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik rivers, as follows:

The solution: Create a youth sports fishery on the Anchor River, Ninilchik River, and Deep Creek. Fishery would be held within the normally open geographic boundaries between the hours for 6-9pm on the Fridays preceding the open weekends on the prospective streams. The fishery would be available to those Alaskans between the ages of 6 and 15. This age does not require a fishing license or king salmon stamp, but would require a youth fishery form to record their catch. The annual limit would be 1 per year total between the streams within the special fishery (A successful catch in the youth fishery would not stop them from fishing in normal fisheries). This fishery could be managed very similarly to the extremely successful Big Game Youth Hunts found within the State already.

This proposal would also meet 1 of the 3 stated core values in the 2015-2020 Fish and Game Strategic Plan - Excellence in Fisheries management and research for the benefit of sport anglers, the State's economy, and **future generations of Alaskans.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The King Salmon fishery of the lower Cook Inlet steams Anchor River, Ninilchik River, and Deep Creek have seen a large increase in pressure over the years. This increased pressure and the way in which the fishing periods are managed (opening at 12:00am) have impacted the fishing quality for our future Alaskans. When the the fishery opens the amount of light is very low. Hooks fly around and most adults' attention falls upon catching their own fish. When day breaks the majority of the aggressive more easily caught fish have been taken and the opportunity for our youth to catch a Wild Alaskan King Salmon is extremely low.

If nothing is changed the amount of young alaskans entering and showing interest in sports fishing will continue to decline.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Stubbs

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