

**PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.**

Align the Swanson River rainbow trout spawning closure with the proposed Kenai River drainage rainbow trout spawning closure start date, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122(a)(11)(B) is amended to read:

(11) Swanson River drainage:

...

(B) flowing waters, from **June 11 – April 30** [JUNE 15 – APRIL 14], are open to sport fishing, except for king salmon;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game submitted this suite of proposals to provide the board an opportunity to review Kenai River sport fishing regulations and consider changes to simplify and align regulations. Nearly all existing regulations for dates to trigger general or special provisions to sport fish regulations are at the first, last or middle day of a month. The purpose is to create regulations: 1) with consistent dates that encompass biological concerns and 2) that are easily understood by the public. Regulations have been adopted in the Kenai River Drainage over the years for various fisheries based on biological as well as social issues. In many cases dates to implement or discontinue regulations for one fishery, do not align with regulations for another fishery in the same area. Over time this creates regulations that are disjointed, overly complex, and not implicit to the public. These proposals identify regulations that, taken as a whole, would align dates and waters to simplify regulations without impacting fishery management objectives. Aligning regulations for consistency will improve public communication, decrease regulatory complexity and increase public understanding of the sport fishing regulations in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

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

(HQ-F16-146)

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