

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 56.140. Kasilof River guiding and guided fishing requirements.

Allow sport fishing guides to sport fish while a client is present from the banks of the Kasilof River, as follows:

5 AAC 56.140

Kasilof River Guiding And Guided Fishing Requirements

In addition to the provisions of 5 AAC 57.160 and this chapter applicable to the Kasilof River, from January 1 through July 31, the guided sport fishery for early-run and late-run Kasilof River King Salmon will be managed as follows:

(1) A sport fishing guide may not sport fish **from a guide vessel and may not sport fish from the bank in that area designated from ADF&G markers at the mouth of Crooked Creek downstream to the ADF&G markers near the cutbank** while a client is present or within the sport fishing guides control or responsibility; notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, a sport fishing guide may provide assistance to a client with a disability in order to enable the client to engage in sport fishing; in this paragraph "disability" has the same meaning given in 42 U.S.C. 12102 (2)(A) and (C), as amended as of February 8, 1994; (2) Repealed 6/12/2011.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue of my proposal is as follows:

Currently, on the Kasilof River, a sport fishing guide may not sport fish while a client is present or within the sport fishing guides responsibility. This regulation does not clearly differentiate between fishing from a guide vessel or a guide fishing from the bank with clients. Therefore, it unfairly restricts a sport fishing guide on the Kasilof River. This severely limits a guide's ability to demonstrate advanced fishing techniques, various casts and retrieves, hook setting skills, bringing a fish to the net quickly and proper catch and release methods. All of these examples are available to guides on the Kenai River so this rule is not consistent on both rivers and unfairly regulated.

Other than that area designated from ADF&G markers located at the mouth of Crooked Creek downstream to the marker near the cutbank, the Kasilof River needs to be open to guides sport fishing from the bank with clients. This proposal would duplicate rules and align with sport fishing guide regulations on the Kenai River.

Another solution I considered to this unreasonable restriction was to just eliminate retention of sport fish caught by guides while a client is present or within the sport fishing guide's control or responsibility. However, it would not clearly distinguish between sport fishing from a guide vessel and sport fishing from the bank with clients. Also, it would not properly set aside that area of the Crooked Creek State Recreation Site, which was of concern to ADF&G representatives I spoke with prior to my proposal.

Although Kenai River guides are not restricted from fishing in similar State Recreation Sites, or fishing from the bank with clients, I rejected his alternative proposal and opted to insert this provision to set aside this area on the Kasilof River for public use only. This specific area is

currently restricted for anchoring guide vessels from January 1st - June 30th and designated markers are already in place.

PROPOSED BY: Raymond Davis

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