

Waters, Seasons, Limits, and Methods and Means (8 proposals)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet — Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Close the Homer Marine Terminal barge basin to sport fishing, as follows:

Close the Homer Marine Terminal barge basin to all sportfishing.

5 AAC 58.022(b)(2)

...

(F) in the marine waters near the entrance of the Homer Spit Marine Terminal barge basin, including the entire barge basin, sport fishing is prohibited. The Homer Spit Marine Terminal barge basin is located on the east side of the Homer spit approximately 1/2 mile north of the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon. ADF&G regulatory markers at approximately (GPS coordinate to be supplied upon further consultation with ADF&G staff) mark the entrance of the Homer Spit Marine Terminal barge basin.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anglers fishing within the close confines of the barge basin while commercial activities are being conducted has created safety concerns and at times hampered commercial activities. The Homer Marine Terminal barge basin is located on the east side of the Homer Spit approximately ½ mile north of the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (NDFL). The defined NDFL waters are closed to snagging unless opened by emergency order, while the nearby barge basin opens to snagging June 24. Anglers have been trespassing on private property at the Homer Marine Terminal primarily to snag wild and stocked coho salmon in July and August. This is an active freight landing area and is extremely unsafe for recreational users.

Furthermore, there is no legal access to the barge basin by land in the first place, but the fact that it is open to fishing encourages trespass. As a man made and maintained body of water, current understanding is that the Homer Spit Properties LLC has ownership of all land included in the basin, including tidal lands and the basin bottom. The last two years have seen a large increase of sport fishermen fishing in the basin for hatchery silvers released off the spit by ADF&G during July and August. Extensive time and effort has been spent talking to fishermen, informing them it was private property, and asking them to not fish there. These efforts have been unsuccessful in large part due to an incorrect general impression that the basin is “navigable water” and in the public domain. Compounding the problem is the fact that current regulations allow for snagging in the barge basin while the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon just down the road prohibits snagging. As a result many fishermen prefer to trespass and fish in the barge basin over utilizing the nearby fishing lagoon. As many as 40 shore fishermen and 12 boats have been present at a given time this past summer. There have been multiple occasions of boats interfering with tug and barge operations; or people, often with children, being in the path of heavy equipment during offload and yard operations. This is a commercial property where barges and landing craft regularly come into the basin, have very limited maneuvering space, and sometimes have dangerous cargo. There is regular use of heavy equipment, handling of freight, and occasionally explosives and other hazardous materials. It is simply not an appropriate location for recreational fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Spit Properties LLC

(HQ-F19-113)

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 58.030. Methods, means, and general provisions — Finfish.

Redefine the area prohibited to snagging in Cook Inlet salt waters, as follows:

5 AAC 58.030 is amended to read:

(c) A person may not intentionally snag or attempt to snag any species of fish in the waters of Cook Inlet north of a line from **Bluff Point (59° 40.00’N. lat.)** [ANCHOR POINT] [AND MAY NOT INTENTIONALLY SNAG OR ATTEMPT TO SNAG ANY SPECIES OF FISH IN THE WATERS EAST OF A LINE FROM ANCHOR POINT TO POINT POGIBSHI FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 23.] A person who snags a fish in these locations shall release it immediately. Except as specified in (d) of this section, a person may snag or attempt to snag any species of fish in the waters **south of a line from Bluff Point (59° 40.00’N. lat.)** [EAST OF A LINE FROM ANCHOR POINT TO POINT POGIBSHI] from **January 1** [JUNE 24] through December 31.

(d) From **January 1** [JUNE 24] through December 31, except during periods established by emergency order, a person may not intentionally snag or attempt to snag any species of fish from the Homer city dock near the entrance of the Homer Boat Harbor, including the entire Homer Boat Harbor, northwest along the east side of the Homer Spit to an ADF&G regulatory marker approximately 200 yards northwest of the entrance to the fishery enhanced lagoon on Homer Spit, to a distance 300 feet from shore.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Snagging regulations in Cook Inlet salt waters are not currently aligned with other sport fishing regulations. Moving the Anchor Point boundary to the latitude of Bluff Point would continue to prohibit snagging year-round in Upper Cook Inlet and allow snagging year-round in Lower Cook Inlet. This would simplify sport fishing regulations by standardizing the boundary between Lower and Upper Cook Inlet to Bluff Point. The regulatory date snagging closure for the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon would need to be changed to maintain the closure year-round.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F19-152)

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet — Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Reduce the sport fish bag limit to one king salmon south of Bluff Point, as follows:

Reduce the daily limit of King Salmon in Cook Inlet south of Bluff Point from 2 salmon per day to 1 salmon per day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? King salmon stocks are depleted in Alaska, Canada, & the Pacific Northwest, and the King Salmon fishery should be managed cautiously to help stocks rebuild. Just because these feeder kings are not Alaska kings should not mean we overharvest fish from elsewhere.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh (EF-F19-034)

**This proposal will be heard at the LCI and UCI meetings, and deliberated at the UCI meeting.*

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet — Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Establish a seasonal limit of five king salmon in Cook Inlet from October 1–April 30, as follows:

Establish a Cook Inlet winter King Salmon seasonal limit of 5 fish per angler between the dates of October 1 to April 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a seasonal limit for winter king salmon in Cook Inlet of 5 fish per person per winter season, this winter seasonal limit will not affect the annual seasonal cook inlet of King salmon, a person could catch 5 kings in the summer, & 5 kings in the winter season. King salmon stocks are at all time lows throughout the entire North Pacific Ocean.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh (EF-F19-035)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 56.122. Special Provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Redefine the boundary for the lower and upper Anchor River stream sections, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122 is amended to read:

(a)(2) Anchor River drainage, except the Bridge Creek reservoir:

(C) from its mouth upstream to **an ADF&G marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge** [THE JUNCTION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH FORKS] sport fishing is open

(D) upstream **an ADF&G marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge** [FROM THE JUNCTION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH FORKS] sport fishing is open from August 1 -October 31, expect for salmon;

(E) sport fishing is open for king salmon from its mouth upstream to **an ADF&G marker located approximately 200 yards upstream of the Old Sterling Highway Bridge**, [THE JUNCTION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH FORKS]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The junction of the North and South Forks has continued to progress farther upstream in recent years and is no longer a readily identified landmark. Redefining the boundary will provide anglers an identifiable landmark for reference and provide the department flexibility to relocate the marker as necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-150)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.

Allow two unbaited, single-hook, artificial flies and limit hook size in the Anchor River and Deep Creek, as follows:

In both the Anchor River and Deep Creek-; September 1-October 31: Only one, unbaited single hook artificial lure [OR FLY IS ALLOWED], **or two unbaited single hook flies is allowed. Both lures and flies must have a gap between point and shank of 3/8 inch or less.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anglers would like to be able to use two small flies in the Anchor River and Deep Creek during the period between Sept 1 and Oct 31. “Swinging” two small flies is an increasingly popular modern fly fishing method for steelhead. During this period the regulations currently allow the use of “only one unbaited, single hook, artificial lure or fly.” Prior to this, the use of bait and multiple hooks is allowed. We understand this regulation is intended to protect steelhead which we support. This proposal would allow anglers to use two wet flies or nymphs to fish for both steelhead (and Dolly Varden) provided the hook size is limited to prevent snagging. In recent years, we have seen increased snagging and release of steelhead by people using large hooks on flies or lures. In the event that the BOF does not allow the use of two flies, we still request that hook size for both flies and lures be limited to prevent snagging.

PROPOSED BY: Phil Brna & Mike Brown (HQ-F19-064)

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet — Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Reduce the sport fishery bag limit for lingcod west of Gore Point to one fish, as follows:

Lower the daily limit of Ling Cod west of Gore Point from 2 fish to 1 fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ling Cod stocks in the Gulf of Alaska have declined in the past several years & needs to be addressed.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh (EF-F19-032)

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet — Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Establish a seasonal limit of two lingcod in the North Gulf coast area, as follows:

Impose a seasonal limit July 1 to December 31 of 2 lingcod per season per angler in the north Gulf coast of the Gulf of Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The decline of ling cod stocks in the Gulf of Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Housh

(EF-F19-033)
