

Northern Pike Fishery General Provisions (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 213

5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area; 5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.110. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.112. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 1 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.114. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 2 of the Susitna River Drainage Area; 5 AAC 61.118. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for Unit 4 of the Susitna River Drainage Area' 5 AAC 62.122. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area; and 5 AAC 62.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the West Cook Inlet Area.

Allow anglers to use 5 lines while fishing for northern pike through the ice, as follows:

5 AAC 60.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

(x) In Anderson Lake, Figure Eight Lake, Flathorn Lake, Memory Lake, all Nancy Lake drainage lakes except Nancy Lake, Prator Lake, and Stephan Lake, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately.

5 AAC 60.122 is amended to read:

[(4)(E) IN ANDERSON LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO TAKE NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(6) FLATHORN AND FIGURE EIGHT LAKES ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(10)(B) ALL NANCY LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA LAKES, EXCEPT NANCY LAKE, ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE

LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(14) IN MEMORY AND PRATOR LAKES, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO TAKE NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.110 is amended to read:

(8) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

(x) in Alexander Creek, Fish Creek (lower Susitna River drainage), Fish Creek (Kroto Slough), Indian Creek, Witsoe Creek, and in Alexander Lake, Amber Lake, Crystal Lake, Donkey Lake, Hewitt Lake, Kroto Lakes, Lady Slipper Lake, Lockwood Lakes, Long Lake, Neil Lake, No Name (Cabin) Lake, Onestone Lakes, Parker Lake, Shell Lake, Shirley Lake, Sucker Lake, Trail Lake, Trapper Lake, Upper and Lower Vern lakes, Whitsol Lake, and Whiskey Lake, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;

5 AAC 61.112 is amended to read:

[(G) SUCKER LAKE, AND ALEXANDER LAKE ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES WITH BAIT IF

(i) THE FISHING GEAR IS CLOSELY ATTENDED BY THE ANGLER AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; AND

(ii) ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(E) TRAIL, NEIL, TRAPPER, AND KROTO LAKES ARE OPEN TO SPORT FISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES WITH BAIT IF

(i) THE FISHING GEAR IS CLOSELY ATTENDED BY THE ANGLER AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; AND

(ii) ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(7) IN THE FLOWING WATERS OF ALEXANDER CREEK, FISH CREEK (LOWER SUSITNA DRAINAGE), FISH CREEK (KROTO SLOUGH), WITSOE CREEK, UPPER AND LOWER VERN LAKES, LOCKWOOD LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD

ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.114 is amended to read:

(12) [(F) IN CRYSTAL LAKE, LONG LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 61.118 is amended to read:

[(10) IN WHISKEY, HEWITT, DONKEY, NO NAME (CABIN), AND ONE STONE LAKES, AND THE FLOWING WATERS OF INDIAN CREEK, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

5 AAC 62.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike; northern pike may be taken in all lakes

(x) In Chuitbuna Lake and the Threemile Creek drainage, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B): fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;

5 AAC 62.122 is amended to read:

(13)[(C) OPEN TO SPORT FISHING THROUGH THE ICE FOR NORTHERN PIKE USING FIVE LINES; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

[(15) IN CHUITBUNA LAKE, FIVE LINES MAY BE USED TO FISH FOR NORTHERN PIKE THROUGH THE ICE; ALLOWABLE GEAR IS LIMITED TO STANDARD ICE FISHING GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 61.110(8)(B); FISHING GEAR MUST BE CLOSELY ATTENDED AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 75.033; ALL OTHER SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and can pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. To encourage anglers to harvest northern pike, systems that primarily contain northern pike have regulations allowing anglers to use five lines through the ice. Expanding that list to include the proposed waters may encourage anglers to fish these areas and harvest northern pike.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-147)

PROPOSAL 214

5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainages Area; and 5 AAC 60.120. General provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainage Area.

Prohibit live release of northern pike in the Anchorage Bowl and Knik River drainages, as follows:

5 AAC 59.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes; **a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike;**

5 AAC 60.120 is amended to read:

(7) northern pike may be taken from January 1 – December 31; no bag, possession, or size limits; northern pike may be taken in all lakes; **a northern pike caught may not be released back into the water alive; notwithstanding 5 AAC 75.065, under this section there are no restrictions on the use or disposal of sport-caught northern pike;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern pike are a predatory fish invasive to Southcentral Alaska and pose a significant threat to salmon and resident fish in the region. During the 2011 Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle, a proposal was passed prohibiting the live release of northern pike in the West Cook Inlet and all units of the Susitna River Drainage, areas where stocks of concern had been identified. However, the remaining waters in southcentral containing northern pike were not included in that proposal. Expanding mandatory retention throughout the southcentral Alaska promotes consistency in regulation between adjacent management areas and reduces predation through pike suppression.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-144)
