

**PROPOSAL 30**

**5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.**

Extend single-hook, artificial fly regulations in the Gulkana River to include the area under the Richardson Highway Bridge, as follows:

5 AAC 52.023 (9) is amended to read:

(A) from June 1 – July 31, only single-hook, artificial flies, with a gap that does not exceed three-quarters inch between the point and shank, may be used in that portion of the Gulkana River downstream **of** [FROM] the **upstream edge of the** Richardson Highway Bridge to an ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately 500 yards downstream of the confluence with the Copper River; additional weight may only be used 18 inches or more ahead of the fly;

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A section of the Gulkana River downstream of the Richardson Highway Bridge allows for only single-hook, artificial flies to be used from June 1–July 31, while a section of the river upstream of the Richardson Highway Bridge allows for bait and artificial lures (including treble hooks) to be used from June 1–July 19. As written, the area under the bridge would fall under general area regulations (i.e., unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures) because it is neither upstream nor downstream of the bridge. Adding the language to include the area under the bridge in the artificial fly only area would reduce regulatory complexity and uncertainty on methods and means restrictions while fishing on the Gulkana River, specifically near the bridge, which is a popular fishing location.

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

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