

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bags, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.

Prohibit barbed hooks when fishing in the Kenai River drainage, as follows:

The solution to the raising issue as the Kenai gets more and more pressure would be not allowing barbed hooks to be fished while targeting Rainbow Trout/Steelhead and Dolly Varden. In addition to that, the solution goes further in that having barbed hooks in the angler's tackle box or in a boat is illegal.

5 AAC. Fishing equipment for the Kenai River and its tributaries.

The ownership of all barbed hook meant for targeting the sport species, Rainbow Trout/Steelhead and Dolly Varden in the Kenai River drainage is illegal. The angler may not have any barbed hooks on his/her person at anytime while fishing the Kenai River and its tributaries. This includes, the current fishing lure/fly, any fishing lure/fly not being used, and all storage inside the vessel. This goes into effect year round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I would like the board to address is the use of barb hooks on the Kenai River. Due to the exponentially high volume of anglers on the Kenai River year round that use barbed hooks, it has caused the sport fish species (ie: Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden) to be caught and released a multitude of times. Most of the river's population of fish are being caught multiple times a week and have no mandibles left due to poor education on unhooking fish with barded hooks. These fish look like elderly humans without their dentures in, and it is truly saddening to know that a good portion of the fisheries species are like this.

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(EF-F19-046)
