

**PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Extend the fishing season for Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and Stariski Creek from October 31 through November 30, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 56.122(a)(2), (5), (6), and (10) to change the season closing date for Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek from October 31 to November 30.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Provide more opportunity for steelhead fishing on Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and Stariski Creek. Fishing pressure is very light by late October. Although these waters often freeze up by early November, they sometimes remain unfrozen into December. Until a few years ago, the season had remained open until December 31. Then, as I recall, ADF&G became concerned about late season mortality in these catch-and-release fisheries and recommended the closing date be October 31, which the Board adopted. However, the biological justification for doing so seemed weak at the time. In recent years, the steelhead have been running late, and no harm would occur from a slightly longer season. I was on the steelhead planning team for ADF&G in the 1990's which recommended catch-and-release for the steelhead fisheries on these streams and wild stock management, which the Board adopted. At that time the closing date was never an issue. I would like to see the Board review the science to either justify the current closing date or revise it to November 30, in light of the fact that the pressure is very light by the latter part of October and in some years the fish have seemed to be running late.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Parker

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