

**PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 57.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai River Drainage Area.** Align size restrictions for Dolly Varden and rainbow trout bag limit in the flowing waters of the Kenai River Drainage Area, as follows:

5 AAC 57.120(a)(5) and (6) are amended to read:

(5) Arctic char/Dolly Varden may be taken from

(A) January 1 – December 31, in all flowing waters from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to Skilak Lake, and the waters of Skilak Lake, **upstream to Kenai Lake, including the flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainage** [EXCEPT THE WATERS WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER INLET]; bag and possession limit of one fish less than **16** [18] inches in length; Arctic char/Dolly Varden **16** [18] inches or greater in length may not be retained; Arctic char/Dolly Varden caught that are **16** [18] inches or greater in length must be released immediately;

...

(C) **repealed** / **2017** [JUNE 11 – MAY 1, IN ALL FLOWING WATERS FROM THE WATERS OF SKILAK LAKE WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER INLET, UPSTREAM TO KENAI LAKE, INCLUDING THE FLOWING WATERS OF THE KENAI LAKE DRAINAGE; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY VARDEN CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY];

(6) rainbow/steelhead trout

...

(B) may be taken from January 1 – December 31, in all flowing waters from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to **Skilak Lake, and the waters of Skilak Lake, upstream to Kenai Lake, including the flowing waters of the Kenai Lake drainage** [AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER, AND FROM JUNE 11 – MAY 1 IN THAT PORTION OF THE KENAI RIVER FROM AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOWER KILLEY RIVER UPSTREAM TO SKILAK LAKE AND THE WATERS OF SKILAK LAKE, EXCEPT THE WATER WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER INLET]; bag and possession limit of one fish less than **16** [18] inches in length; rainbow/steelhead trout **16** [18] inches or greater in length may not be retained; rainbow/steelhead trout caught that are **16** [18] inches or greater in length must be released immediately;

(C) **repealed** / **2017** [MAY BE TAKEN FROM JUNE 11 - MAY 1, IN ALL FLOWING WATERS UPSTREAM OF SKILAK LAKE, AND THE WATERS OF SKILAK LAKE WITHIN A ONE-HALF MILE RADIUS OF THE KENAI RIVER INLET; BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONE FISH LESS THAN 16 INCHES IN LENGTH; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MAY NOT BE RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT THAT ARE 16 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The size (total length) of the one fish Dolly Varden bag limit Kenai River anglers may retain differs by river section. This would create the same size restriction for all areas of the Kenai River Drainage Area. Aligning regulations for consistency will improve public communication, decrease regulatory complexity and increase public understanding of the sport fishing regulations in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

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

(HQ-F16-134)

\*\*\*\*\*