

**PROPOSAL 81 – 5 AAC 56.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.** Create consistent rainbow/steelhead trout regulations in the Kasilof River above and below the Sterling Highway Bridge and amend the open season date for Tustumena Lake tributaries to protect spawning rainbow/steelhead trout, as follows:

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8)(B)(vii) is repealed:

(8) Kasilof River drainage, excluding Crooked Creek and Tustumena Lake and its tributaries;

...

(B) the following special provisions apply in that portion downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge:

...

(vii) **repealed** / **2017** [RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT MAY NOT BE POSSESSED OR RETAINED; RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY; A PERSON MAY NOT REMOVE A RAINBOW/STEELHEAD FROM THE WATER BEFORE RELEASING THE FISH];

...

5 AAC 56.122(a)(8) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

**(D) rainbow/steelhead trout may not be possessed or retained; rainbow/steelhead trout caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a rainbow/steelhead from the water before releasing the fish;**

5 AAC 56.122(a)(12)(B) is amended to read:

(12) Tustumena Lake and its tributaries:

...

(B) except as specified in (A) of this paragraph, the tributaries of Tustumena Lake are open to sport fishing only from **June 11 – April 30** [JUNE 11 – MAY 1];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Align rainbow/steelhead trout regulations in the Kasilof River drainage by creating the same regulation above and below the Sterling Highway Bridge. In addition, this regulation changes the open season for rainbow/ steelhead trout in tributaries to align with the open season in the Kenai River Drainage Area.

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

(HQ-F16-143)

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