

# Sports Fish Regulation Prohibiting Snagging of Any Fish

KETCHIKAN—A sport fish regulation prohibiting the snagging of any fish in fresh water has been adopted by the Alaska Board of Fish and Game.

The antisnagging law, one of 51 sport fishing regulations adopted by the board at its fall meeting, is similar to regulations now in effect in Oregon and Washington. Aesthetic objections and danger of overharvest

were cited by the Department of Fish and Game as reasons for proposing the regulation.

The new regulation states:

"In fresh water, it is prohibited to intentionally snag or attempt to snag any fish. Fish unintentionally hooked elsewhere than in the mouth must be released immediately. Snagging is hooking a fish elsewhere than in the mouth."

The board also reopened the freshwater drainages of Bristol Bay to red salmon sport fishing and set aside a portion of the Gulkana River near Glennallen for fly fishing only during June and July.

In Southeastern Alaska, the board reduced the daily bag limit on trout, grayling, char

and kokanee from 15 to 10 fish with not more than two over 20 inches in length. A uniform bag limit of six salmon (except kings and kokanees) per day was established for all of Southeastern Alaska. These limits apply to both fresh and salt water.

On Kodiak Island, special spring closures for steelhead were liberalized as current studies indicate that steelhead populations on the island are at exceptionally high levels.

Other regulations passed by the board will:

- Restrict fresh water fishing for salmon in several streams near Juneau.

- Redefine the Ketchikan Creek salmon fishing closed area.

- Reduce salmon, trout and char limits in the Yakutat area.

- Add an additional salmon closure in Eyak Lake and Tributaries.

- Extend sanctuary and reduce red salmon and bag limit on Russian River.

- Reduce bag limit for grayling on Tanana River to five per day.