

PROPOSAL 83 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Allow the traditional harvest of whitefish and non-salmon subsistence fish in specific waters of the Newhalen River, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022 (k) is amended to read:

5 AAC 67.022

...

(k) In the fresh waters of the Bristol Bay Area where the use of bait is not allowed as described in **5 AAC 01.325(c)**, (**only including the Newhalen River from Mile 1 to 22**), a person may not apply to fishing gear or place in the water any substance for the purpose of attracting fish by scent, including

- (1) fish eggs in any form;
- (2) natural or preserved animal, fish, fish oil, shellfish, or insect parts;
- (3) natural or processed vegetable matter; and
- (4) natural or synthetic chemicals.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current “no chumming” regulation could potentially result in citations for Alaska residents who harvest whitefish and other non-salmon species under sport fishing regulations at traditional fish camps where salmon are processed that are harvested under subsistence regulations. This issue is specific to the area of the upper Newhalen River from River Mile 22 extending into Six Mile Lake, the Lake Clark drainage, and Lake Iliamna where the majority of subsistence salmon fishers process their harvest shore side, keeping their fish in the water to keep their catch cool during processing.

Persons sport fishing (using a rod-and-reel) at a subsistence camp, while there are fish parts in the water, are essentially violating the “no chumming” regulation and could be cited by the Alaska State Troopers for a sport-fishing violation. This situation often occurs when subsistence harvesters are targeting whitefish that are likely attracted to the scent of the sockeye salmon being stored submerged in fresh waters for processing or their parts returned to the water after processing which were harvested under subsistence regulations. Often these are children who are fishing with rod and reel while their parents clean fish nearby.

The Nondalton Tribal Council would like the Alaska Board of Fisheries to recognize this customary and traditional way of harvesting whitefish and other non-salmon species in the areas included in this proposal, by exempting this method of harvest from being considered “chumming.”

PROPOSED BY: Nondalton Tribal Council

(EF-C15-115)
