

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)

PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Establish non-retention king salmon sport fishing in the Big Creek drainage of the Naknek River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d)(11) is amended to read:

(11) the Big Creek drainage [, INCLUDING WATERS WITHIN A ONE-QUARTER MILE RADIUS OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE NAKNEK RIVER] is closed to **the retention of all** [SPORT FISHING FOR] king salmon year round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Big Creek is the only portion of the Naknek drainage that is realistically available to fly fish for king salmon. All other waters of the drainage are too large, fast and deep to allow access by fly fishermen. King Salmon Creek and Paul’s Creek were closed to all fishing for king salmon many years ago and Big Creek was the only alternate left for fly fishermen to use as a location to fly fish for kings. By closing this creek it has totally eliminated the possibility for fly fishermen wanting to fish for king salmon in the Naknek drainage. In addition it has unintentionally displaced the gear fishery that has historically occurred in front of the mouth of the creek. By implementing the regulation to include the phrase "within 1/4 mile radius of its confluence with the Naknek River" it disrupted a fishery that has been in use for generations, for no biological reason.

This wording would allow for fly fishermen to access the creek for catch and release fishing only, it would allow for the gear fishery to return to historic use and still protect the king salmon in the drainage. Again, there was no biological concern for the creek when this regulation was implemented. This change will still show an abundance of caution for the king salmon fishery in the Naknek drainage while no longer displacing a user group and restoring a fishery that was and is not identified as being a problem for the resource or any social reason in the main stem of the Naknek River.

PROPOSED BY: Nanci Morris Lyon (EF-C15-062)

PROPOSAL 85 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Redefine the sport fishing boundary description for non-retention of king salmon in the Big Creek drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d)(11) is amended to read:

(11) the Big Creek drainage, including waters **from the confluence of Big Creek with the Naknek River** [WITHIN A ONE-QUARTER MILE RADIUS OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE NAKNEK RIVER:];

Closed all year round to all king salmon fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This area boundary correction reflects the intent of the regulation proposal when it was originally made. The current radius boundary interrupts fishing lanes in the main stem of the river and serves no conservation purpose.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Klutsch (HQ-F15-076)

PROPOSAL 86 – 5 AAC 67.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Bristol Bay. Implement a mail-in requirement for all king salmon harvest tickets in Bristol Bay sport fisheries, as follows:

This proposal would require anglers to record their harvest (and catch?) data on a department provided mail-in harvest ticket much like that for big game hunting in Alaska. The cards must be returned to ADF&G at the end of the Chinook salmon season in Bristol Bay.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To address concerns for chinook (king) salmon catch and harvest data and to make more efficient use of the current requirement to record Chinook salmon harvests in the Bristol Bay sport fisheries. Numerous Bristol Bay residents express concern and doubt regarding the timeliness and accuracy of current methods for assessing the sport harvest and catch of area Chinook salmon. The Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS) results are delayed by up to two years and are not trusted by many. Guided angler data is sent to ADF&G weekly. Other than the SWHS there is no in-season data collected on non-guided anglers unless an expensive onsite angler survey is conducted. ADF&G cannot survey all waters every season.

Bristol Bay area sport anglers of all ages are already required to record their Chinook salmon harvests on their license or on a special report card.

It is expected the data from these cards could be used by ADF&G to refine their assessment of harvest (and catch?) of Bristol Bay Chinook salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-071)

PROPOSAL 87 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay area. Eliminate the use of egg-simulating lures in rainbow trout fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d) is amended to read:

Only unbaited, single-hook artificial lures excluding plastic, rubber, neoprene, fiber, or any other material that simulates a fish egg or egg cluster may be used year round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hook injury and mortality due to the use of egg simulator lures is causing excessive harm to rainbow trout populations. Catch and release techniques attempted by inexperienced fishermen are generally not effective especially younger age class fish. This would constitute a conservation measure.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Klutsch

(HQ-F15-075)
