

**From:** Mark Silverman  
**Date:** December 29, 2019 at 11:12:04 PM AKST  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Concern for the Naknek

Dear Israel Payton

I am writing to you to express my concern over the immense pressure that is being placed on the Naknek River. In particular, the neglect and abuse of the rainbow trout fishery that I have personally witnessed over the past decade. At one point this late September I witnessed over 30 power boats in a three mile area! What is worse, is that these boats are allowed to “cycle” down the river, motor back up, and repeat over and over again. Many times, people are actually sight fishing to rainbow trout holding right next to the river bank to fish that are OBVIOUSLY resting and trying to regain strength after having been previously caught. This is not simply ANY river we are talking about. The Naknek may truly be the BEST trophy rainbow river left in the world and action has to be taken immediately if we want to preserve it.

There are many ideas I have heard on how to go about protecting the Naknek: From limiting the number of guides, limiting guided days, allowing drift one time only, banning the bead method of fishing, etc. Something needs to be implemented soon. British Columbia recognized years ago the rareness and uniqueness of its steelhead fishery and has not only banned beads on MOST of their highly pressured areas, but only allow local residents to fish some of these waters on Friday through Sunday, for example. Barbless hooks should be mandatory on ALL catch and release rivers. British Columbia has been this way for years. Why is it taking us so long to catch on? We are usually way AHEAD of other countries when it comes to conservation efforts, it's time to recognize this special resource and act swiftly to protect it!

I have already seen a RAPID decline not only in the numbers of fish, but the QUALITY of these magnificent rainbows. It is now common to see fish with missing jaw parts and eyes much as you see them on any road accessible river. Guides need to be schooled on proper catch and release tactics, and dragging fish in a net from a motorized boat only to manhandle it for that perfect picture for 10 minutes needs to be addressed as well. I understand the board of fish and game has many issues concerning salmon regulations that it possibly views as more

important, but I hope we all realize there is no other rainbow trout fishery like this in the entire world. Please, we need to act now. Thank you.

Sincerely, Mark Silverman

Sent from my iPhone