

*Methods and Means (3 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 18**

**5 AAC 67.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Bristol Bay Area.**

Prohibit the use of salmon eggs for sport fishing, as follows:

Banning the use of spawn for sportfishing

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Sport fishermen using spawn to catch salmon, trout, dolly varden. The fish swallow the spawn, and the hook is deep in their mouths. I have seen it when they are targeting King salmon, they are accidentally catching rainbow trout and dolley varden. When the hook is deep in a King salmon its hard on them also, their survival rate goes down.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Gagliano

(EF-F21-006)

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**PROPOSAL 19**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Prohibit the use of certain sport fishing tackle in a section of the Naknek River, as follows:

On the Naknek River from the upper ADF&G boundary marker at Trefon’s Cabin down to the lower ADF&G boundary marker at Rapids Camp, use of all salmon egg imitation patterns are not permitted. These patterns includes all hard and soft beads, glow bugs, spin and glows and any other stand alone egg imitation, unless the egg imitation is a fixed part of a fly or lure longer than 1 inch in length (for example egg sucking leeches).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal will address the means and methods of fishing for rainbow trout on the Naknek River from the upper ADF&G boundary marker at Trefon’s cabin Lake Camp to the lower ADF&G boundary marker at Rapids Camp. I believe it is imperative we eliminate all forms of bead fishing in this section of the river. The increased pressure from this technique is having a huge detrimental impact on both the rainbow trout and the quality of experience on the water. It also has a negative effect on the remnant king salmon populations. Smaller age class rainbows are also vulnerable to bead fishing.

We cannot continue down this path and expect the fishery to remain healthy for much longer. I’ve noticed a sharp decline in certain age classes over the last five seasons and this will invariably affect our trophy class of rainbow trout in the next few years. On some days as much as 80 percent of the total fishing pressure are using the bead technique. Beads increase the mortality rate, wound and maim the trout because they tend to swallow the bead deeply thus causing the fish to bleed upon release and eventually die. The popular technique is to peg the bead a few inches up the line. Sometimes the trout miss the bead but the hook may end up in their eye or under their chin causing in some cases blindness in one eye or serious infections to the wound area. Conventional flies such as wooly worms and egg sucking leaches are taken in the mouth, and the angler feels the bite immediately. He must respond quickly to the strike and the fish will be hooked somewhere in the

mouth, and is easily released. Beads on the other hand, are almost always swallowed deeply into the throat area which greatly increases the mortality rate. Even if released, they often would and maim the fish, and they eventually die.

The Naknek River was known for its pristine beautiful rainbow trout. Let's eliminate this method of fishing and maybe help alleviate some of the pressure on the river as well.

I will offer the board examples of "bead baits" at the Boar of Fish meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joey Klutsch (EF-F22-080)

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**PROPOSAL 20**

**5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area.**

Prohibit the use of bait and barbed hooks in the Wood River Lakes system, as follows:

From the outlet of the Agulapak River into Lake Nerka north to Kulik Lake and its streams and tributaries only unbaited, single barbless/pinched barbed hook artificial lures Sept 1-June 7; only unbaited, single barbless/pinched barbed hook artificial flies June 8-Aug 31.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue I would like to address is the use of barbed hooks on the Agulapak River in Bristol Bay. This river is roughly 50 river miles from the closest town, Aleknagik. After my 4 years guiding on the Agulapak I have never seen people from town drive up and fish that river. They have either the Wood River and/or Agulawok River that are significantly closer to them. The Agulapak gets pressured through local fishing lodges, whom practice catch and release methods. They use oversized hooks that tend to harm fish by scaring their face. The large hooks have disproportionate sized barbs on them too which causes fish to die when the unhooking technique is poor. It will also cause the fish to bleed out if hooked deep in the mouth and on the bottom of the head. Since I have been guiding on that river the amount of scarred fish outnumber the 'clean' fish without scars of being caught before. If the regulation continues as it stands that number will only increase because the fishing lodges are getting busier. And it is also a shame people are paying \$7,000 to \$12,000 to catch fish that look like they belong in the Kenai with all of the scars. If guided properly, fish can be landed at the same rate using a barbless hook than a barbed hook.

I am recommending the board to consider making the upper Wood River draining, approximately everything north of the outlet of the Agulapak River to a barbless/pinched barb fishery. That would include Agulapak River, Lake Beverley, Peace River, Mikchalk Lake, Wind River, Kulik Lake, and all streams and tributaries. This will not cause the angler or business any more money because all they need to do is pinch the barb. The lodge that I work for already operates on a barbless standard. This change will increase survival rate of the fish in the drainage due to the ease and simplicity of removing the barbless hook from the fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jordy Perrego (EF-F21-019)

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