

***Sport Fishing Guides (1 proposal)***

**PROPOSAL 17**

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

Limit guided angler access to sport fishing in a section of the Naknek River, as follows:

The new regulation should read:

Upstream from ADF&G markers located ½ mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon’s cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake:

June 8 – October 31: no commercial entity (Lodges, guide services, businesses including LLC’s, rental boat operators, fishing clubs, transporters, etc) may have more than 8 fishermen in this section of the Naknek River at any one time. They may take multiple groups in a day, but they may not have more than 8 fishermen on this section of the river at any given time.

A formula for identifying a commercial entity and their clients should can be developed. One option would be to issue up to 8 identification badges to each commercial entity, to be worn by anglers while fishing in this section of river. The Board may want to consider other option for identifying the 8 anglers. I will present options at the Board of Fish in their December meeting.

This will greatly enhance quality of experience and particularly reduce pressure on rainbow trout

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the last cycle, the Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee supported a proposal that would limit the number of fishermen for guided and transported fishermen by any commercial entities (Lodges, guide services, businesses including LLC’s, rental boat operators, fishing clubs). The proposal read as follows:

Upstream from ADF&G markers located ½ mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon’s cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake:

September 1 – October 31: Each commercial entity will have four badges, one per angler, to sport fish for Rainbow Trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic Char and Arctic Grayling. Badges must be worn on the arm of the angler and visible at all times.

The Board through its subcommittee found this proposal too restrictive and rejected it. The issues that prompted this original proposal was intense overcrowding and loss of quality of experience for which this river was once famous. The vast majority of the communities of King Salmon and Naknek signed a petition supporting this proposed regulation. Local residents find it very difficult to even find a place to fish. Spatial distribution and level of effort help determine quality of experience. There are far too many fishermen, mainly guided, on this section of river. Residents who live here do not want to see the Naknek River reduced to combat fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Klutsch

(EF-F22-082)

\*\*\*\*\*