

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

UNABLE TO ATTEND BOARD OF GAME SOUTHCENTRAL REGION MEETING
March 14th – 19th, 2019 COMMENT

FROM:

Amy Fredette/Ayakulik Adventures
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PERTAINING TO:

Proposal 108

5 AAC 92.540 Controlled use areas

Create a controlled use area on the Ayakulik River in Unit 8 by limiting the type of outboard motor used on the river to four-stroke only.

I oppose proposal 108 to limit outboard motor use to four-stroke engine only along the Ayakulik River, Kodiak Island for a variety of reasons.

I, Amy Fredette have been on the Ayakulik River since 1992. I'm the owner of Ayakulik Adventures, a sport fishing and wildlife viewing business on the Ayakulik River. I hold a limited number of Special Use Permits for Commercial Sport Fish Guiding from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge on the Ayakulik River, along with obtaining a yearly Special Use Permit for Wildlife Viewing and Photography Permit.

Limiting the use to four-stroke only outboards would create an unpracticable burden for my business and other users.

I certainly agree that the Ayakulik River is a pristine wilderness area on Kodiak Island, and have always treated it so.

With the decline of the king salmon runs, I have witnessed a major decline in guided tourism and unguided use by others along the Ayakulik River in comparison to the 1990's and earlier 2000's.

Daily use on the Ayakulik River by sport fishing guides during summer months has dropped to only **three** of the **six** special use permits. Of these three permits, two guides are on the lower section of the Ayakulik River during the summer months when the water level is always too low. Use of boats for fishing does not even incur.

During the month of September when water level **possibly** rises in the lower section of the Ayakulik River, I may be able to use a boat to access fishing pools for guided fishing. On average, I use a boat ten days out of an entire season (June, July, August, and September) up river on the Ayakulik River **IF** water conditions are even high enough.

Other commercial sport fishing special use permit holders during fall months use only non-motorized rafts or fly in with float planes on the upper section of the Ayakulik River for day use only – no boats. Unguided fishing. Of what unguided recreational fishing that even still occurs on the Ayakulik River, these people fly in with float planes on the upper section of the Ayakulik River and camp until pick up or float the river with non-motorized rafts.

Walking the Ayakulik River system for sport fishing is and always has been the major mode of transportation.

The one area a boat is used for business on a regular basis is near the mouth of the Ayakulik River where the lodge is. Boat is used once every week to take guests back and forth the “lagoon” channel when the wheel planes arrive on the beach for “changeover”.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages a weir on the Ayakulik River. Personnel from the weir also use a boat to channel across the lagoon to pick up groceries and other supplies brought in by the wheel plane on the beach.

When wildlife is encountered on the shoreline while boating the Ayakulik River, engine is throttled down as to not scare the wildlife. Guests always enjoy seeing wildlife and want to take photographs from the boat.

Purchasing new four-stroke outboards to replace E-TEC outboards when E-TEC technology is compliant and has shown a reduction in emission levels places an unnecessary burden on the business.

With the limited number, use days, location, and reasons boats are used on the Ayakulik River, it seems unreasonable to have a requirement of four-stroke engines.

Thank you for your consideration in opposition to proposal 108.

Regards,



Amy Fredette
Ayakulik Adventures