

PROPOSAL 60

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

Create a rod limit for nonresident anglers sport fishing for salmon on a portion of the Naknek River, as follows:

Sockeye Salmon and Silver Salmon limits

In all waters upstream from ADF&G regulatory marker located 1/2 mile upstream of Rapids Camp, including all waters within 1/4 mile of all lake inlet and outlet streams:

8 rod limit per day at any one time for salmon (sockeye and silver salmon) for commercial business entity: Lodges, Transporters, Boat Rentals, and fishing clubs. LLC's are considered one business entity. Rod Limit allocations are non transferable or salable. Applies to non residents only

These restrictions apply upstream from ADF&G markers located 1/2 mile above Rapids Camp to ADF&G markers at Trefon's Cabin at the outlet of Naknek Lake including all waters within 1/4 mile of all lake inlet and outlet streams:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The level of effort on the Naknek River between the ADF&G marker above Rapids Camp and the ADF&G marker at Trefon's Cabin above Lake Camp has increased so dramatically in the last 10 years that the quality of experience for which this river was once famous has been lost. Fishing for Sockeye and Silver Salmon, has been reduced to a "combat fishery."

1. Conflicts among users are so great that local residents find it almost impossible to find a decent location to fish with their families (including kids) due to overcrowding and lack of ethics. This excessive pressure is primarily from high volume lodge operations nearly all of which are owned and operated by people who do not live in Alaska, let alone the area.
2. The quality of experience which the Naknek River was once famous for has been lost. This in an allocation of opportunity which needs to be addressed.
3. There is no spatial distribution of effort due to the sheer volume of nonresident clients utilizing large scale lodge operations.
4. The proposed regulatory changes are not arbitrary. They are based on historical knowledge of the Naknek River sport fishery by not only conservation orientated guides, but also by local residents who have had enough of loss of opportunity and abuse the fishery resource.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The quality of experience will continue to diminish for all user groups. Conflicts among users will continue to increase.

What are other solutions you considered? Time and area closures for guided, transported, boat and equipment rental commercial entities – i.e. limit days of operation. *This is not necessary if recommended proposals which would regulate the scale of effort are adopted.*

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-090)
