PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 67.022. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means in the Bristol Bay Area. Establish non-retention king salmon sport fishing in the Big Creek drainage of the Naknek River drainage, as follows:

5 AAC 67.022(d)(11) is amended to read:

(11) the Big Creek drainage [, INCLUDING WATERS WITHIN A ONE-QUARTER MILE RADIUS OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE NAKNEK RIVER] is closed to **the retention of all** [SPORT FISHING FOR] king salmon year round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Big Creek is the only portion of the Naknek drainage that is realistically available to fly fish for king salmon. All other waters of the drainage are too large, fast and deep to allow access by fly fishermen. King Salmon Creek and Paul's Creek were closed to all fishing for king salmon many years ago and Big Creek was the only alternate left for fly fishermen to use as a location to fly fish for kings. By closing this creek it has totally eliminated the possibility for fly fishermen wanting to fish for king salmon in the Naknek drainage. In addition it has unintentionally displaced the gear fishery that has historically occurred in front of the mouth of the creek. By implementing the regulation to include the phrase "within 1/4 mile radius of its confluence with the Naknek River" it disrupted a fishery that has been in use for generations, for no biological reason.

This wording would allow for fly fishermen to access the creek for catch and release fishing only, it would allow for the gear fishery to return to historic use and still protect the king salmon in the drainage. Again, there was no biological concern for the creek when this regulation was implemented. This change will still show an abundance of caution for the king salmon fishery in the Naknek drainage while no longer displacing a user group and restoring a fishery that was and is not identified as being a problem for the resource or any social reason in the main stem of the Naknek River.

PROPOSED BY: Nanci Morris Lyon (EF-C15-062)

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