

PROPOSAL 51

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

Establish a limited guide permit system between September 10 and October 20 in a portion of the Naknek River, as follows:

Limited permit fishery, from September 10 through October 20, from the marker located at Rapids Camp up stream to the marker located at Trefons cabin on the Naknek river. Any user who hosts guests and would like access to the upper Naknek river must acquire a registration permit. No user, entity or LLC can hold more than 2 permits unless they have more than 12 guests at a single time, no single guide operator may hold more than 1 permit. Any entity or user may hold 3 permits if they have a guest capacity of more than 12.

For initial issuance no more than 2 permits per entity maybe awarded until it is shown there are permits left available. Each permit allows no more than 3 anglers per boat. Actual permits will be required to be obtained by any commercial, business or private entities that use the river to host trips. Local residents will be excluded from this requirement, provided they are not taking guests, other than family members, fishing. There will be a total of 14 permits issued, the criteria for issuance will be based upon 1) physical location of the entity or individuals base of operations to the fishery 2) Alaska residency 3) recent years and number of years of documented use during September 10 through October 20 4) entity or individuals record of compliance with all rules and regulations of the state of Alaska. Each factor will have a possibility of 10 points and the higher the points the higher placement to receive a permit(s) Points shall be awarded to applicants based on each of these factors. The closer an individual or entity's base of operations is to King Salmon on the Naknek river the more points to be awarded. For every 10 miles of distance a base of operations is from the Naknek river the applicant has 1 point deducted. If the entity or individual is a full time, permanent Alaska resident, 10 points will be awarded; non-resident applicants will receive no points. The longer use of the Naknek river during September 10 through October 20 through ADF&G log book records, the more points shall be awarded, if an applicant has proven use of the upper Naknek River since the inception of the logbook program they will receive 10 points, for every year usage is not recorded a point will be deducted. If the Entity or individual has a clean record of abiding by the rules and regulations of the State of Alaska, they will receive 10 points, for every recorded and convicted violation of an entity or individual a point will be deducted. If there are more than 14 qualified applicants scoring the maximum allotted points for the issuance of these permits, the permits will be drawn out of the hat until all 14 are filled. If there are not 14 applicants for these permits, the stipulation for a maximum of 2 permits per entity will be waived and applicants can hold a maximum of 3 permits for 5 years at which time the permittees will be re-evaluated. If there are still permits left over, they will be held in suspension until a qualified applicant applies to request them. These permits will not be transferable to another user, when an entity goes out of business or is no longer an active user for one or more years, the permits will once again be available for users to obtain with the same guide lines as outlined above. The permits will remain in the hands of the individual or entity to which they were awarded and will be evaluated once every five years and once again awarded as specified above with priority given to users who originally had permits issued to themselves or an entity that had a permit(s) issued to them, for re-issuance. The permits will be priced at a cost to cover the costs of the state to issue and maintain the program as determined by the states offices, these costs will be assessed yearly

and non-payment will be considered non-compliance and the permit will go back to the state and be available to a new or existing user.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Participation in the Naknek River, late fall, rainbow trout fishery has increased to the point of discomfort by all users from overcrowding on the water. The portion of river that is involved in this fishery is relatively short in length and quite limited in accessibility for anglers. This has significantly affected the quality of the experience anglers enjoy while fishing the upper Naknek river. The constitution of the state of Alaska protects quality as well as quantity in fisheries and this issue directly relates to the quality of experience available on the river since there are no current stock concerns for the rainbow fishery and there may not be for many years as this is primarily a catch and release fishery.

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