

PROPOSAL 19

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

Prohibit the use of certain sport fishing tackle in a section of the Naknek River, as follows:

On the Naknek River from the upper ADF&G boundary marker at Trefon’s Cabin down to the lower ADF&G boundary marker at Rapids Camp, use of all salmon egg imitation patterns are not permitted. These patterns includes all hard and soft beads, glow bugs, spin and glows and any other stand alone egg imitation, unless the egg imitation is a fixed part of a fly or lure longer than 1 inch in length (for example egg sucking leeches).

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal will address the means and methods of fishing for rainbow trout on the Naknek River from the upper ADF&G boundary marker at Trefon’s cabin Lake Camp to the lower ADF&G boundary marker at Rapids Camp. I believe it is imperative we eliminate all forms of bead fishing in this section of the river. The increased pressure from this technique is having a huge detrimental impact on both the rainbow trout and the quality of experience on the water. It also has a negative effect on the remnant king salmon populations. Smaller age class rainbows are also vulnerable to bead fishing.

We cannot continue down this path and expect the fishery to remain healthy for much longer. I’ve noticed a sharp decline in certain age classes over the last five seasons and this will invariably affect our trophy class of rainbow trout in the next few years. On some days as much as 80 percent of the total fishing pressure are using the bead technique. Beads increase the mortality rate, wound and maim the trout because they tend to swallow the bead deeply thus causing the fish to bleed upon release and eventually die. The popular technique is to peg the bead a few inches up the line. Sometimes the trout miss the bead but the hook may end up in their eye or under their chin causing in some cases blindness in one eye or serious infections to the wound area. Conventional flies such as wooly worms and egg sucking leaches are taken in the mouth, and the angler feels the bite immediately. He must respond quickly to the strike and the fish will be hooked somewhere in the mouth, and is easily released. Beads on the other hand, are almost always swallowed deeply into the throat area which greatly increases the mortality rate. Even if released, they often would and maim the fish, and they eventually die.

The Naknek River was known for its pristine beautiful rainbow trout. Let’s eliminate this method of fishing and maybe help alleviate some of the pressure on the river as well.

I will offer the board examples of "bead baits" at the Boar of Fish meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Joey Klutsch

(EF-F22-080)
