

PROPOSAL 101

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 bait and multiple hooks in the Egegik and Ugashik drainages, as follows:

Egegik River Drainage, add; Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures or flies with a gap between the point and shank of 1/2 inch or less are allowed year around.

Ugashik River Drainage, add; Only unbaited, single-hook, artificial lures or flies with a gap between the point and shank of 1/2 inch or less are allowed year around.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ban the use of bait for sport fishing, in the Egegik River and Ugashik River Drainage system. The Egegik River and Ugashik Narrows are experiencing increasing fishing pressure from local and fly out lodges. The use of cured eggs has a higher mortality rate on sport caught fish than artificial lures or flies. Arctic Grayling, on the upper reaches of the Egegik River, Ugashik Narrows and Ugashik River is either catch and release or closed. Fishing any of these drainages with bait counters the idea of protecting the Grayling population.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have been guiding sportfishermen on the Becharof and Ugashik River systems every year since 1978. The last 15 years there has been a dramatic increase in fishing pressure, especially on Silver Salmon. With declining run strength of King and Silver Salmon I believe it's time to start protecting these fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Tracy Vrem

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