

PROPOSAL 103

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

Prohibit the placing of any substance in the water for the purpose of attracting fish by scent (chumming), as follows:

Current Regulation:

Chumming:

In waters closed to the use of bait, sport fishing guides and guided anglers are prohibited from placing in the water any substance (bait) for the purpose of attracting fish by scent.

Proposed new regulation:

Sport fishing guides and guided anglers are prohibited from placing in the water any substance (bait) for the purpose of attracting fish by scent.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see chumming (throwing in bait to attract fish) by guides and guided anglers prohibited in Bristol Bay waters. It is currently legal in areas where bait is allowed. We've seen that it disrupts the fish's natural feeding habits and also makes them much more susceptible to being caught. We've often witnessed guides use chum to attract fish to their location and their angler's flies, while the rest of us struggle to produce good fishing. We feel takes away the "fair chase" aspect of fishing and also contributes to fish mortality because the fish are caught and released more than usual.

***This proposal is not intended to stop the use of bait or bait fishing in areas where it is currently allowed, it is only intended to prohibit chumming by sport fishing guides and guided anglers.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Pat Vermillion and Scott Schumacher of Royal Coachman Lodge

(EF-F26-094)
