



# Naknek River Camp- Alaska

## July 16th – 23rd , 2022

Thanks for signing up for Mad River Outfitters excursion to the Katmai Trophy Lodge in Alaska. We are looking forward to having you along. Your host will be head guide for MRO and Ohio Fly Fishing Guides, Josh McQueen. Josh has visited the lodge many times and is there to make sure that you have the trip that we promised, and then some.

Following is some important information on the trip including an equipment listing. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact any of us at the shop.

Also, if you haven't already, a *50% deposit is required* to hold your spot and the full balance is due no later than 60 days prior to the trip.

### **Itinerary-**

You should plan on arriving at the King Salmon airport on the afternoon of Saturday, July 16th. This almost always entails an overnight in Anchorage. There are many hotels close to the airport that provide a shuttle service. You will of course fly first from your home airport to Anchorage and then book the flight on Saturday to King Salmon.

You will be picked up by a lodge representative and taken to the lodge where we will have dinner and get ready for the fishing frenzy. We will then fish with guides for the next six days. We will depart on the morning of Saturday, July 23rd back to Anchorage. We will get you to the airport for your departure from King Salmon. Included in the price of the trip is all accommodations and meals at the lodge, fishing with boat, guide and lunch. Package does not include airfare from hometown to King Salmon, overweight baggage charges, alcoholic beverages, gratuities, items of a personal nature including fishing tackle, telephone calls etc.

### **Flight Information-**

Fly into Anchorage (ANC) and then switch over to either Penair ([www.penair.com](http://www.penair.com)) or Alaska Airlines for the final leg to King Salmon (AKN). We prefer that you arrive in King Salmon some time on Saturday after Noon and leave the following Saturday morning. There is a lodge rate with Penair, which is for a fully refundable and

changeable ticket. To book this ticket, call Penair at 1-800-448-4226 and ask for the “Naknek River Camp Lodge Rate”.

**\*\*Once you have your travel plans made, please forward them to Mad River Outfitters so that we can keep track of when everyone is arriving/departing!!!**

### **Recommended Tackle List-**

**Rods-** Recommended that each guest bring a minimum of 2 fly rods. We prefer a 9’ 4-6wt for the smaller waters and a 9’-10’ 7-8wt rod for the larger waters. If king salmon are a target you may want to have a 9wt or 10wt as well.

- The Naknek is a big river that holds big fish- quite often in fast water. It is a great river for a switch or spey rod. We recommend 11’ to 13’ spey/switch rods for 7 and 8 weight lines, matched with an assortment of sinking tips as well as a floating tip of some sort. “Go To” Naknek streamer rig is an 11’ 6 or 7wt switch rod with a 200-300 grain sink-tip line and an articulated leech or flesh fly
- If you want to bring spinning gear, we recommend a 7’-9’ rod designed to handle 6-12 pound line on a reel with 2 spools, one with 8lb and one with 12lb (See King Salmon section for other tackle recommendations)

**Reels-** Should be anodized, corrosion-resistant saltwater type models, with a high quality drag, that will hold a fly line and at least 125-200 yards of backing

**Fly Lines-** Weight-forward floating lines are necessary for both outfits. Sink tips will be useful for both but are a must for the larger 7-9 wt outfits. Teeny type 24’ heads in 200 grain and 300 grain are a must for Alaska fishing. Shorter sink tips may be useful as well for fishing streamers and sockeye.

**Leader/Tippet-** Standard tapered leaders in 0X-3X along with corresponding tippets will do most everything for your floating fly lines. May want to have a few 4X-5X for grayling on dries. Sinking lines will mostly require a simple formula of 2’ 20lb, 1’ 15lb (Maxima Clear) then to 0X or so tippet

**Flies-** (see fish specifics for more info) \* indicates must have!

- \*Pink eggs- 6-10
- Assorted egg patterns
- \*Egg/Trout Beads
- Small dries/nymphs for grayling
- \*Dolly Llama’s
- \*Sculpin patterns
- Large articulated streamers
- \*Chain Reaction leech- assorted colors
- Woolly Buggers/Egg Sucking leeches
- Starlite Leech
- String Thing
- Flesh Flies
- Meatstick
- “Wogs”
- Marabou speys/tube
- Assorted tube flies
- Mouse Patterns

### **Other Accessories-**

- chest waders and rubber soled wading shoes (studded soles not allowed on float plane) \* NO FELT!
- polarized sunglasses, two pair
- wading staff
- nippers for cutting monofilament
- strike indicators
- fly floatant
- hook sharpener
- fly line dressing
- needlenose pliers/forceps
- small day pack (waterproof) for storing tackle, camera, clothing etc.

### **Clothing-**

- Long underwear
- Layering type clothing system
- Fleece insulation, hats and gloves
- Good raingear!!
- Fishing hat with a long front visor or big brim for sun/wind protection on face, neck and ears

### **Miscellaneous-**

- Camera and accessories
- Insect repellent/mosquito head net
- Sunscreen, waterproof with an SPF of at least 30 and lip balm of the same
- Any medications you may require
- Personal items
- Flashlight
- Travel alarm clock

For more information, please see [www.naknekrivercamp.com](http://www.naknekrivercamp.com)

### **Further Fishing specific info-**

**Smolting Rainbows on the Naknek:** The best rainbow fishing is close to camp. The rainbows concentrate on salmon smolt and leeches migrating downstream to the ocean. The best offerings include large rabbit strip and marabou leeches in black, olive and dark brown. Minnow imitations are also deadly in small to medium sizes. Jigs (black, white, cream, brown, olive, silver) are also deadly, as are minnow shaped plugs, silver spoons and silver spinners. By mid August, the rainbow, char and grayling switch over to eggs and flesh, although large leech imitations still work well at times. Mottled Trout Beads in apricot, orange and the various roe colors in 6mm, 8mm and 10mm are the best producers. Don't forget to bring round toothpicks and bare egg fly hooks in size 8. By mid-September, large articulated flesh flies and leech imitations start out-producing beads on the larger rainbows.

**Rainbows at Brooks:** Brooks is flies only. In June, July and early August, rainbows will eagerly take mice, dead drifted small dries, sculpins and leeches. By mid-August, the bow's switch over to sockeye eggs. A 6mm mottled bead fished ahead of a small flesh fly or maggot imitation is deadly.

**Grayling at Idavain:** This fishing starts out with a 1 - 2 mile hike to the best fishing grounds. Grayling are best fished with light tackle. We recommend a 4 or 5 weight fly rod with a floating line. #12 and #14 adams, caddis and stoneflies

(dry), small beadhead nymphs, leeches, woolybuggers and deer hair mice will all work here, as will beads and flesh in the late summer/fall.

**Margot Creek:** Margot offers some of the best char fishing in the system, mixed in with a modest number of rainbows. The fishing usually kicks off in mid-July. These early run fish will eagerly take dries and egg imitations, but by August, 6mm mottled beads become the overwhelming favorite lure.

**Kings :** These begin showing up mid-June, building throughout the month. Most of the fishing is down in the lower Naknek, where tide is important and the water is deep. By late July, they will begin moving into the rapids to prepare for spawning. Most of the spawning activity takes place in August and early September in the Rapids. King season ends on July 31. Prior to this date, a king salmon stamp is required to target kings. After July 31, all kings accidentally caught must be released immediately.

King tackle is very specialized. We have a lot of heavy rods and reels - spinning, revolving spool and fly - that guests can use. If you want to bring some, I would recommend a 7 foot spinning rod with 30 pound braid for casting, a 9 foot spinning or casting rod with 30 pound braid for back-trolling and a 9' for a 9 or 10 weight for fly-fishing. The fly reel should employ a 400 - 600 grain sink tip line.

Large streamers in bright colors with lots of action work very well (salmon snakes, rabbit leeches, popples, etc.) Plugs are very popular locally, with large Kwikfish being #1, followed closely by Wiggle Warts and Hot-N-Tots in Chart, Fire Tiger, Hot Pink, silver/green and Orange. Large spinners are especially deadly, with blades in sizes 5 - 8 in silver, pink, chart and orange. As of this spring, single hook only rules are in place for all of the waters we fish.

**Sockeye:** Chrome sockeye begin their trip from the ocean around June 20<sup>th</sup>. This migration continues until late July (timing varies, of course, depending on weather). Until the spawn in mid-August, sockeye will hold in slow pools and side channels. They are usually turning red by early August.

**Silvers:** By late July, silvers begin running into the Naknek on each high tide. Bright marabou streamers in purples and pinks and other bright colors. Spinners in sizes 3-5 in pink, orange, chartreuse and silver all work well at times, as do wiggle warts in the same colors. A local favorite is a marabou or rabbit strip jig in pinks and purples, fished with or without an indicator (bobber). When silvers get spooky, however, nothing compares to the effectiveness of a fly rod, a shooting line and a small marabou streamer or woolybugger in black, purple, pink, olive or cream, fished on 2x - 3x fluorocarbon tippets.

**Pinks:** The Naknek receives some pinks every year, but on even years, the numbers are much higher. This should be a good run year.

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[www.madriveroutfitters.com](http://www.madriveroutfitters.com)

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