

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in Yakutat Area. Remove the sunset clause from Yakutat Area commercial salmon set gillnet permit stacking regulation, as follows:

5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in the Yakutat area.

The Yakutat Advisory Committee proposes that the board remove paragraph (e) [THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2014.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Yakutat Advisory Committee asked for this to be adopted at Southeast and Yakutat Finfish 2012. It was with a sunset provision. The section was implemented, there was minimal effort, but it was utilized. There was not adverse reactions or complaints heard. It did provide a small opportunity for improvement in a fishery that has had a 10-year average gross income of around \$13,000. The advisory committee feels that keeping the section in the order that it is written is appropriate.

The advisory committee does not feel that anyone will be adversely affected. We considered no other options.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-078)

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in Yakutat Area. Allow the owner of two commercial salmon set gillnet permits to fish both permits throughout the Yakutat Area, as follows:

Proposal 5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in the Yakutat area.

Remove the restrictions of where and when two permits can be fished by one fishermen, and allow for two permits anywhere in the district, when a setnet fishery is conducted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are 157 limited entry set gillnet permits in the Yakutat area. That number won't change, only the hands they're in. This shouldn't change the scope of the fishery; only allow for more aggressive fishermen the opportunity to fish harder. In a fishery with an average gross income of \$13,000, something needs to be done to revitalize the fishery, as it is currently failing and many simply choose not to fish from the lack of profits.

No one will be adversely affected, and it will help the fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee. (EF-C14-079)

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 30.XXX. New Section. Allow multiple commercial salmon set gillnet permit holders to jointly harvest and deliver fish, as follows:

Two to three Yakutat setnet permit holders may register with ADFG to jointly harvest salmon and deliver fish to the processors. Registration will included the vessel number of any vessel that may be used by this co-op partnership. The vessels registered must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as holding multiple permit holders on board. A permit holder who is registered may also fish by themselves if their permit card lists that vessel on it, and the letter "D" is covered up during that trip. When the "D" is displayed the permit holders registered together must be on board the vessel. A permit holder may only be registered in one co-op partnership at a time, but may be involved in more than one partnership within one year. If fish are harvested in more than one sub-district the fish tickets of each partner in the co-op partnership will show the same estimation of amount of fish caught in each sub-district.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the Yakutat setnet fishery has historically operated in partnerships, enforcement is now writing violations for pooling the fish from several sites or units of gear. Yakutat setnet gear is fished out of small open 20 foot skiffs, very often under hazardous and rough conditions. For reasons of safety, conservation of fuel, and general overall ease of operations for the fishermen, temporary partnerships will often arise. There may be three or more permits all being fished out of one small skiff. Keeping track of which fish came from which net is impossible most of the time under these conditions, and to avoid anyone feeling shorted, these fish were considered common property and distributed on a percentage basis among the fishermen at the processors. Typically the split is 50/50, but there are instances where this is not the case, such as when a permit holder with a vessel fishes with a permit holder without a vessel. **This has been a common practice prior to limited entry, and we would like to develop a regulation where this practice can continue in the future without fear of prosecution.** This is not a permit stacking request.

If this is not implemented, increased violations will be issued and historical practices of the fishery will have to change which will increase the danger of the fishery and lower the economic viability of the fishery.

We considered making it mandatory for there to always be an exactly even split. This would alleviate any potential conflicts with Child Support Enforcement Division, or other court ordered garnishees against one or more of the potential partners, but decided against it, as this is not the intent of fish tickets.

We would prefer to leave it up to the individual fishermen to split the fish based on a percentage that determine, but if exactly even splits were mandatory it is preferable to no splits at all. We are resubmitting this proposal hoping to resolve whatever it was that failed it in 2012. Any options would be considered.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-080)

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 30.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Remove depth restrictions from commercial salmon set gillnet gear, as follows:

Proposal to allow unlimited mesh depth in Yakutat set gillnet fishery anywhere in the district, anytime a fishery is conducted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would remove mesh depth restriction currently set at 45 mesh deep. It would primarily be a benefit in the Yakutat Bay pink salmon fishery, and would not affect any of the other fisheries. No one will be adversely affected, and it would be a benefit to setnet fishermen in the pink salmon fishery. In addition, it would make gear purchases less wasteful.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-081)

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 30.331. Gillnet specifications and operations Allow commercial salmon set gillnets up to 60 meshes deep after July 1, as follows:

Change the mesh length restriction. Proposal to allow for 60 mesh deep nets in Yakutat Bay only, after July 1 instead of 45 mesh deep.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would primarily aid in the harvest of pink salmon in Yakutat Bay, which tend to run deeper than other species. No one would be adversely affected, and no resources would be harmed.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-082)

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 30.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Clarify gillnet specifications in the East River in September, as follows:

5 AAC 30.331(a)(1)(F) is amended to read:

- (a) Set gillnets with mesh size smaller than eight inches.....:
 - (1) in the Yakutat District

...

(F) East River, one net not to exceed 20 fathoms, except that starting the first **Sunday** [MONDAY] in September, two nets not to exceed 20 fathoms each and an aggregate length not to exceed 40 fathoms;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2003 Southeast Region Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, the opening day for all fishing periods in the Yakutat Area was changed from Monday to Sunday in 5 AAC 30.320. *Fishing periods*. At that time, 5 AAC 30.331. *Gillnet specifications and operations* (a)(1)(F) was not changed to reflect the new

opening day. As a result, the department must issue an emergency order each year effecting an allowable gear change for the East River from Monday to Sunday for the first fishing period in September. This oversight should be corrected to align these regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-081)

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 30.310. Fishing seasons. Establish an opening date for the Tsiu River commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

- (1) (A) In the Yakataga District opening and closing dates will be made by emergency order
(B) In the Tsiu River the opening will be on the third Sunday in August.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Opening date for the Tsiu River Fishery; processors and fishermen need a date certain for the start of the commercial fishery. Uncertainty in the opening dates creates problems for processors and fishers needing to stage equipment and support for the commercial fishery (i.e. airplanes, camps, boats, etc.).

PROPOSED BY: John Vale (HQ-F14-042)

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters. Redefine closed waters in the Lost River, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350(a)(7) is amended to read:

- (a) Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:
 - (7) Lost River:
 - (A) before the opening of the fishing period for the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet during the second week of July, upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet 100 yards downstream from the terminus of the river;**
 - (B) following the closure of the fishing period for the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet during the second week of July, and for the remainder of the season, upstream from ADF&G regulatory markers located in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet 500 yards downstream from the terminus of the river [UPSTREAM FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 500 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE MOST DOWNSTREAM TREE LINE ON THE WEST BANK AT THE TERMINUS OF THE RIVER];**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The tree line referenced in the regulation was undercut by the river and no longer exists. Closed waters for Lost River are defined each year since 1999 in the annual Yakutat set gillnet fishery management plan. Prior to and including the fishing period during the second week of July, closed waters markers are set 100 yards from the terminus of Lost River to allow additional area in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery so as to harvest stocks bound for the Situk and Ahrnklin rivers. Following closure of the second week of

July fishing period, when Lost River salmon stocks enter Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet, Lost River closed waters markers are relocated 500 yards from the terminus of the Lost River. This affords an area of protection for Lost River salmon stocks as they traverse the open waters of the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-082)

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 30.XXX New Section. Establish new salmon statistical areas in Yakutat Bay, as follows:

Proposal to draw a line from the North tip of Khantaak Island, to Point Latouche, creating a separate statistical area for salmon setnet fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This area is primarily a pink salmon harvest area, but it is managed in accordance with what the sockeye run strength is and sockeye harvest conducted at the mouth of Yakutat Bay. Pink salmon fishermen are missing out on opportunity. In addition, there have been conflicts and warnings issued, and much confusion regarding 500 yard buffer zones around small no name creeks that are listed in the anadromous water catalog. This proposed area should be excluded from the 500 yard ruling on any creeks unless posted as not fishable with ADF&G regulatory markers. Currently, Humpy Creek is the only stream that is ever marked accordingly. Pinks spawn all over in this area, and the 500 yard rule simply should not apply in this area. No one will be adversely affected, and it will be a benefit to pink salmon harvesters.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-83)
