

PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications. In the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area during times of conservation, require the return of a specified salmon species immediately to the water unharmed when beach seining, as follows:

5 AAC 01.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(m) During times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of a specific species of salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and immediately reopen the season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area to subsistence fishing with beach seines and require that a specified salmon species be returned immediately to the water unharmed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During times of abundance of one salmon species there may be the necessity to conserve another salmon species. The department could allow the harvest of the salmon species in abundance while still protecting the salmon species requiring conservation. For example, during recent years, it has been necessary to conserve king salmon by requiring the release of king salmon back to the water alive while beach seining for chum and pink salmon. In Subdistrict 1, there have been times when there was the need to conserve chum or coho salmon. Beach seine gear may be used in such instances to allow harvest of other species, particularly pink salmon, while requiring live release of species returning in low numbers. This proposal would provide more flexibility for the department to address salmon conservation concerns throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-013)
