

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow the restriction of gillnet mesh size during times of conservation for chum and king salmon in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.170(i), (j), and (k) are amended to read:

(i) Notwithstanding (a) – (h) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines **that it is** [IT TO BE] necessary for the conservation of chum salmon, the commissioner, by emergency order, may 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 during which gillnets**

(1) [THE PINK SALMON FISHING SEASON IN SUBDISTRICTS 1–6 AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON IN THOSE SUBDISTRICTS, DURING WHICH GILLNETS] must have a mesh size of four and one-half inches or less; **and**

(2) **may not exceed the length specified by the commissioner** [THE FISHING SEASON IN SUBDISTRICTS 2–6 AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON IN THOSE SUBDISTRICTS TO SUBSISTENCE FISHING WITH ANY GEAR THAT IS LAWFUL UNDER THIS SECTION, EXCEPT GILLNETS].

(j) Notwithstanding (a) – (h) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines **that** it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in **any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area** [SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6] and immediately reopen the season in **any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area** [THOSE SUBDISTRICTS] during which gillnets

(1) must have a mesh size of

(A) **four and one-half inches or less;**

(B) six inches or less; or

(C) [(B)] seven inches or less; and

(2) may not exceed the length specified by the commissioner.

(k) **Repealed** / / / [IN SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, OPEN AND CLOSE FISHING PERIODS DURING WHICH A GILLNET MAY HAVE A MESH SIZE NO GREATER THAN

(1) FOUR AND ONE-HALF INCHES;

(2) SIX INCHES; OR

(3) SEVEN INCHES].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under current regulations, the department may only restrict gillnet mesh size during subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5 and 6 for the conservation of king salmon and in Subdistricts 1–6 for the conservation of chum salmon. However, there are portions of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area that are not part of any subdistrict, such as the St. Michael and Stebbins areas that are adjacent to the Yukon Area. During years of king salmon conservation, fishermen have been able to fish in southern Norton Sound adjacent to the Yukon Area with no gillnet mesh size restrictions. This proposal would provide more flexibility for the department to address any chum or king salmon conservation concerns throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. Subsection (k) may be repealed since it is redundant to subsection (j).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-014)
