

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Add cast net as a legal subsistence fishing gear and allow both dip net and cast net gear to be used in all subsistence fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.170. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications. (a) Salmon may be taken only by

- (1) gillnet;
- (2) beach seine;
- (3) fish wheel;
- (4) a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, as specified in (h) of this section;
- (5) dip net **or cast net**, as specified in (l) of this section.

(b) Fish other than salmon may be taken only by set gillnet, drift gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, pot, longline, fyke net, dip net, **cast net**, jigging gear, spear and lead, or, as specified in (h) of this section, by a hook and line attached to a rod or pole.

(l) [IN THE PILGRIM RIVER DRAINAGE,] Dip nets **or cast nets** may be used to take salmon, except that during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of specific salmon species, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the season and immediately reopen the season during which specific salmon species must be returned immediately to the water alive.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose that the Board of Fisheries adopt regulations allowing the use of cast nets as well as dip nets in waters open to subsistence fishing in the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area with the exception of fishing for salmon in those waters open only to hook and line only gear for salmon as described in 5 AAC 01.1.75(c). Use of cast nets is currently not authorized, nor is the use of dip nets for salmon except in the Pilgrim River. Allowing the use of cast nets and dip nets will provide opportunity for participation in subsistence fisheries that are not currently available. Cast nets and dip nets are less expensive than seine and drift or set gillnet gear and do not require the investment in boats and motors necessary for the effective use of seine and gillnet gear. Also, cast nets, and in some instances dip nets, are effective gear in waters that are not suitable for use of seines or gillnets. Cast nets and dip nets allow fishers to be more selective in the fish that are harvested, as non-target fish may be released back into the water with little or no harm.

The primary interest in use of cast nets, that I am aware of, is to take capelin along Norton Sound beaches when they arrive in mid-summer and to take white fish in fresh water later in the summer.

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