

PROPOSAL 196 – 5 AAC 27.655. Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan. Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20, as follows:

I would like the board to change the rollover date from July 25 to July 20. I suggest the board use the current language and just change the date from the 25 to the 20 of July. This would still give any one the opportunity to fish, but if there is no effort by the 20, the seiners could harvest the remaining quota.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2001 the board allocated 7% of the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring quota to be harvested by gillnet only, and then increased that number in 2004 to 14%. The intent of this change from an all seine fishery was to give the small local Dutch Harbor fleet an opportunity to catch the herring. 2001 through 2005 there was effort and there were landings. Since 2005 there has been no effort or no landings by the gillnet fleet. The regulation now states that the uncaught gillnet quota does not roll over into the seine quota until the 25 of July. The fishery opens July 15. The seiners usually have their portion of the quota caught by the 20 of July and it does not make economic sense for the vessels, or the processors to wait until the 25 of July to catch the roll over gillnet quota. The result being in the last 10 years most of the gillnet portion of the quota has gone unharvested.

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