

PROPOSAL 115 – 5 AAC 21.365. Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan. Define the boundary that separates set gillnet from drift gillnet gear in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA), and define the outside boundaries of the KRSHA, as follows:

5 AAC 21.365(f) is amended to read:

(f) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area (KRSHA) to the taking of salmon by gillnets when it is projected that the Kasilof River sockeye salmon escapement will exceed 365,000 fish. It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries (board) that the KRSHA should rarely, if ever, be opened under this subsection and only for conservation reasons. Before the commissioner opens the KRSHA, it is the board's intent that additional fishing time be allowed in the remainder of the Kasilof Section first, and secondly that the mandatory closures specified in regulation be reduced in duration, if necessary to meet the escapement goals contained within this and other management plans. The Kasilof River Special Harvest Area is defined as those waters within one and one-half miles of the navigational light located on the south bank of the Kasilof River, excluding waters of the Kasilof River upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located near the terminus of the river and waters open to set gillnetting under 5 AAC 21.330(b)(3)(C)(ii) and (iii). **The offshore limit of the KRSHA is bounded by a line from 60° 22.59' N. lat., 151° 20.79' W. long. to 60° 23.83' N. lat., 151° 21.70' W. long. to 60° 24.13' N. lat., 151° 21.34' W. long. to 60° 24.13' N. lat., 151° 17.72' W. long.** The following apply within the special harvest area when it is open:

(1) **the boundary between those waters open to set gillnet gear and drift gillnet gear is bounded by a line from 60° 22.77' N. lat., 151° 20.93' W. long. to 60° 23.23' N. lat., 151° 19.31' W. long. to 60° 23.56' N. lat., 151° 18.17' W. long. to 60° 24.13' N. lat., 151° 18.12' W. long.** [SET GILLNETS MAY BE OPERATED ONLY WITHIN 1,200 FEET OF THE MEAN HIGH TIDE MARK];

(2) **repealed** / **/2017** [DRIFT GILLNETS MAY NOT BE OPERATED IN WATERS WITHIN 1,200 FEET OF THE MEAN HIGH TIDE MARK];

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2014, the board modified provisions of the *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* to state that when the KRSHA is open, set gillnetting may take place only within 1,200 feet of the mean high tide mark, while drift gillnetting may not occur in waters within 1,200 feet of the mean high tide mark. Because there is no minimum distance separating gear in the KRSHA, this invisible boundary separating the two gear groups can become a highly disputed demarcation line. To aid in an orderly fishery and to provide more enforceable boundary lines in the fishery, the department attempted to meet the intent of the board's 1,200 foot line by issuing an emergency order (EO) listing a series of four waypoints that defined the separation of gear and the outside boundaries in the KRSHA. The Alaska Department of Public Safety provided positive feedback by stating that lines defined by waypoints are easier to enforce than lines defined as a distance from mean high tide.

This proposal seeks to place into regulation a series of waypoints defining the north and south boundaries of the KRSHA, as well as the demarcation line between set and drift gillnetting in the KRSHA. If the regulation is not changed by board action, the department will continue to issue an EO with these waypoints when the KRSHA is opened.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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