

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Define commercial fishing statistical areas in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery, as follows:

New section in 5 AAC 21.200 and/or 5 AAC 21.330 would define the six ESSN statistical areas into regulation for more accurate and accountable reporting purposes.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 5 AAC 39.130 (c) (7) The first purchaser of raw fish is required to record on a fish ticket information for reporting ...the ADF&G statistical area, district, and subdistrict, and the nearest headland or bay in the which the fish were taken; In Cook Inlet, 5 AAC 21.355 requires ... a commercial salmon fisherman shall, at the time of the landing, report on an ADF&G fish ticket the number of salmon, by species, taken but not sold. Statistical areas that makeup the ESSN beaches are not specifically defined in regulation. General reporting regulations require the raw fish purchaser to report on the fish ticket a statistical area. Further, 5 AAC 21.310 (b) (2) (C) (iii) closes by emergency order after July 31st if the ADF&G determines a 1 % production/participation threshold and relies on the statistical areas reported. Some fishermen harvest in both the Kenai and Kasilof sections thus different statistical areas. There is no accountability or requirement in Cook Inlet for commercial fishermen to give an accurate statistical area for a percentage of their catch. In 2015, the Kasilof section was shut down earlier than the Kenai section for just a few hundred pounds. Sockeye goals had been exceeded in both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. The King BEG in the Kenai was assured. Statistical areas 244-31, 244 -32, 244-41 and 244-42 have coordinates listed in various sections. 244-21 and 244-22 describe the Clam Gulch road as the arbitrary division but it has no coordinates defined in regulation. Placing the actual ESSN statistical areas in 5 AAC 21.200 would clarify boundaries for management purposes and adherence to current reporting requirements on fish tickets. In Bristol Bay 5 AAC 06.370 (l) (1-7) statistical areas are used for registration areas. A management tool to allow for surgical openings to align fishing opportunity with abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Shadura, spokesperson for South K-Beach Independent Fishermen’s Association (SOKI) (EF-F16-161)

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 21.200. Fishing districts, subdistricts, and sections. Move the southwestern-most point of the Expanded Kasilof Section 1.2 nm west so it aligns with the northwestern-most point of the Expanded Anchor Point Section, as follows:

5 AAC 21.200(b)(2)(E)

Expanded Kasilof Section: all waters enclosed by a line from a point on the beach at 60°27.10' N lat., 151°16.94' W. long., west to a point at the Blanchard Line located at 60°27.10' N. lat., 151°33.76 W. long., south to a point located at 60°04.02'N lat., [151°46.60] **151°49.00'** W. long. and east to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at 60 04 .02' N. lat., 151 38.90'W. long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the BOF created a new Anchor Point Section at the 2014 UCI meeting, the NW point was established 1.2 nm to the west of the current SW point of the Kasilof Expanded Section. The new regulation created a 1.2 mile discrepancy when describing what was supposed to be a common point for both the SW point of the Kasilof Expanded and NW point of the Anchor Point Sections. We request a common coordinated point of 151°49.00' West longitude be used to describe the westward point where these two sections join up against each other along the 60°04.02 North latitude line.

The 1.2 nm discrepancy in the sections boundary line creates compliance and law enforcement issues. There are no salmon conservation or allocation effects if this regulation is changed.

PROPOSED BY: United Cook Inlet Drift Association (HQ-F16-007)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 21.331. and 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear in the Cook Inlet Area. Allow a single person holding two Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Cook Inlet drift gillnet limited entry permits to operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, as follows:

5 AAC 21.333

(a) Except as specified in (e)-(g) of this section one person holding two Cook Inlet CFEC limited entry drift permits may fish up to 200 fathoms of drift gear from the same vessel under this section, or two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may fish concurrently from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gear under this section.

(b) Repealed 5/18/2014

(c) When one person holding two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permits, or when two Cook Inlet CFEC permit holders fish from the same vessel and individually or jointly operate additional drift gillnet gear under this section,

(d) When one person holding two permits or

(e) The individual or joint

(f) A vessel with a double permit holder or with

(g) Repealed 5/21/2011

- and -

5 AAC 21.331

(c) A drift gillnet may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. No person may operate more than one drift gillnet ,except as specified in 5AAC21.333

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to allow a single person to hold two CFEC Cook Inlet drift gillnet permits and operate both at the same time on one vessel as is permitted in 5AAC21.333. Presently as more and more salmon are allocated away from the commercial fishery to the sport fishery, the economic viability of individual drift fishers is negatively impacted. If adopted, this proposal will reduce the number of boats fishing, and over time, perhaps lowering the fleet to half its present number. Additionally, the number of nets fishing will be reduced significantly, resulting in more escapement to other users. Permit stacking in 5AAC21.333 requires two permit holders which is problematic, because it puts two skippers on the same vessel and makes them equally responsible for how the gear is fished, when to set, where to set, etc. This can create liability issues and conflicts between permit holders. If adopted this proposal will provide another option other than permit stacking.

Changing/adding language to 5 AAC 21.331 is necessary if the BOF adopts the changes requested to 5AAC21.333.

PROPOSED BY: Robert E Merchant (EF-F16-019, EF-F16-020)
