

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 33.200. Fishing Districts and Sections. Clarify the boundary between sections 15-A and 15-C at Sherman Rock, as follows:

5 AAC 33.200(o)(3) is amended to read:

(o) District 15: waters of Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Little Island Light;

...

(3) Section 15-C: all waters of the district south of the latitude of Sherman Rock [LIGHT], except for the waters of Section 15-B.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sections 15-A and 15-C share a boundary at the latitude of Sherman Rock. Regulations describe the southern boundary of Section 15-A as the latitude of Sherman Rock and the northern boundary of Section 15-C as the latitude of the Sherman Rock Light. There is no fixed light at Sherman Rock. The nearest light is located approximately one half nautical mile north of Sherman Rock at Point Sherman. Current regulations could be misinterpreted to create an overlap of sections 15-A and 15-C in the area between Sherman Rock and Point Sherman Light. Defining the northern boundary of Section 15-C as the latitude of Sherman Rock will clarify the shared boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-084)

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear. Increase commercial drift gillnet salmon fishing opportunity in Section 6-D, as follows:

Proposed language:

(c) Salmon may be taken by gillnets in the following locations only during fishing periods established by emergency order that start on a Sunday and close by emergency order:

...

(2) District 6

(B) Section 6-D west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington to a point on Etolin island at 56° 09.60' N. lat., 132° 42.70' W. long., to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope is open from the second Sunday in June through the first Saturday in August and from the first Sunday in September until the season is closed. **For the 2015 board cycle: the area is open from the second Sunday in June until the season is closed, however from the first Sunday in August until the first Sunday in September this area may be open if pink salmon abundance also warrants seine openings in this area. When a seine opening is announced the area will be closed to gillnet at 11:59 p.m. on the day preceding a seine opening and will remain closed for the duration of that seine opening. At the end of the 2015 BOF cycle, this section reverts to the regulation in effect as of 12/31/14.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Section 6-D west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington to a point on Etolin Island a 56° 09.60' N. lat., 132° 42.70' W. long., to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope is closed to gillnet for virtually the entire month of August.

This area abuts a gillnet area, 6-C. Having 6-D closed for a month precludes the gillnet fleet from fishing what can be a very productive stretch of beach in what can be a very productive time frame. It condenses the gillnet fleet to smaller area than is necessary. In years of high pink abundance, a seine fishery is conducted in 6-D by emergency order. By regulation the gillnet fleet is precluded from sharing in this abundance.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters and Southeast Alaska Seiners
(EF-C14-163)

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Establish a drift gillnet mesh size restriction in District 8 when the directed king salmon fishery is closed, as follows:

"In District 8 during years of no directed king salmon fishing, the maximum mesh size allowed is six (6) inches."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I believe this is consistent with the District 11 management plan. Currently there is no maximum mesh size in District 8 (Stikine River Area) during the directed sockeye fishery during years when there is no directed fishery allowed for king salmon. Without a maximum mesh size, gillnetters are allowed to fish large mesh nets and target king salmon every year even though there is no directed fishery for kings in some years.

A similar management plan for District 11 (Taku River Area) contains a mesh restriction during the sockeye fishery when there is no directed king salmon fishing allowed.

Not only is this a conservation issue, but also a fairness issue between user groups. Both recreational fishers and commercial trollers are restricted when there is no directed fishery allowed for king salmon in this area. Having a maximum mesh size similar to the District 11 management plan provides consistency for these transboundary rivers and does not interfere with gillnetters ability to target sockeyes.

Without this mesh restriction some gillnetters will continue to target king salmon during the sockeye fishery even though there is no directed king fishery allowed.

PROPOSED BY: Stan Malcom
(EF-C14-043)

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow drift gillnets with mesh size of four and seven-eighths inches or less to have a depth of up to 120 meshes, as follows:

By adopting regulations allowing nets of 4 7/8" or less mesh size to increase allowable mesh depth up to a maximum of 120 meshes. A current 4 7/8" 60 mesh net is approximately 24 feet in

total depth, without tide. The 60 mesh net likely fishes at a depth of less than 20 feet (calculating for wind, tide and drift), allowing the majority of pink salmon to swim under the net.

By doubling the allowable depth to 120 meshes or approximately 48 feet, perhaps 36–40 fishable feet (again calculating for wind, tide and drift, this will increase opportunity for the drift gillnet fleet to harvest pink salmon and thus diversify the drift gillnet fishery for participants. It also gives the drift gillnet fleet the opportunity to gain on historical pink salmon harvests in traditional and historical drift gillnet areas. Net lengths will be in accord with existing regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To provide additional opportunity for the gillnet fleet to become more efficient and productive in the pink salmon fishery in traditional and historical drift gillnet areas. Our nets are designed to harvest larger species. As thus, our 60 mesh net may hang 30 plus feet if fishing for chums or sockeyes, or perhaps even 40 feet if for kings. But allowing for the much smaller pink salmon mesh size, our net shrinks to a mere 24 flat stretched feet, or about 20 feet or less while fishing. We need a deeper pink salmon net in order to harvest pink salmon.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (EF-C14-165)

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow the use of single filament mesh in a commercial salmon drift gillnet in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

A new section in 5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations would be added as follows:

(k) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.250(c), in the Southeast Alaska area, a person may use single filament mesh web in a drift gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the use of monofilament web in the drift gillnet fishery. The cost of web has gone up approximately 30% over the last 10 years and is expected to increase over the next couple of years. The cost of high end commercial fishing gillnet web is now \$24.50/pound while monofilament cost about 1/2 the price at \$12.46/pound.

Monofilament was approved for use in the Cook Inlet Fishery and that fishery has shown that over time some fishermen will choose to use monofilament web while others continue to use the more conventional web. We are just asking for the opportunity for those who wish to use monofilament to have that choice as a cost savings.

PROPOSED BY: Kathy's Net Loft & Gear Supplies (Kathy & Ed Hansen) (EF-C14-110)
