

PROPOSAL 113 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; and 5 AAC 05.330. Gear. Prohibit the use of drift gillnets in the Yukon Area subsistence fishery and in the Yukon Area commercial fishery, as follows:

Suggested language: **There will be no subsistence or commercial drift net fishing allowed on the Yukon River for Chinook salmon**

Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (TRM AC) supports the similar king salmon part of the Fairbanks AC’s anti-drift net proposal that they plan to be sending in to the board.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At issue here we feel (unanimous TRM AC vote) is a non-sustainable, very unfair and extremely difficult to manage otherwise, drift net fishery in the Yukon River.

Our basic premise is that if the king runs ever recover to fishable numbers, a sustainable, fair fishery cannot exist with the current situation of allowing drifting in the areas easiest to catch kings and banning it in many of the hardest to catch king areas as is now the case. Drift net fishing also goes against the elders’ principle of not targeting other peoples’ fish. We believe that drift netting gives fishers way too much access to those kings going the farthest upriver (mid-river Canadian bound— the kings in most trouble) that would not otherwise be caught as frequently. Drift net use prior to the early 1970’s was very minimal compared to today’s vastly increased numbers we see during present day limited entry fish openings. There will never be a better, less painful time to remedy the unfairness and overfishing capabilities of the drift net fishery on the Yukon than now, while everyone grapples with how best to bring back and manage the fishery in the future.

PROPOSED BY: Tanana Rampart Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-016)
