

**PROPOSAL 125 – 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Establish gillnet gear provisions to allow a directed pink salmon commercial fishery in districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

Establish a directed pink salmon fishery in the Yukon River with the use of gillnets four inches or less and no deeper than 50 mesh. Draft language adds a new section (k) to 5 AAC 05.331

**5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations**

**(k) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, in Districts 1 - 3, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season and immediately reopen the season during which a person may take salmon only with a gillnet that has a mesh size of four inches or less and that is not more than 50 meshes in depth.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Pink salmon runs are strong and a harvestable surplus is available, particularly in even numbered years. Accordingly, we seek to establish a directed pink salmon fishery within the open waters of the Yukon Area using gillnets of four inch or less mesh size and no greater than 50 meshes deep. We believe that favorable market conditions exist. Although small numbers of pink salmon have been sold in the past, these fish were incidentally caught in the directed summer chum salmon fishery. We now seek to establish a directed fishery for pink salmon in the Yukon River. Although there has not been assessment of the pink salmon stock, we believe that it is relatively strong and there are no concerns with escapement and subsistence, particularly during the large runs in even numbered years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kwik’pak Fisheries

(EF-C15-066)

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