

PROPOSAL 133 – 5 AAC 04.395. Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District and the Unalakleet River King Salmon Management Plan. Allow the use of beach seines for commercial harvest of chum and pink salmon in Subdistricts 5 and 6 of the Norton Sound District during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

5 AAC 04.395(j) is added to read:

5 AAC 04.395(j) If subsistence fishing for king salmon is restricted, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the commercial chum and pink fishery to beach seine gear, with mesh size that does not exceed four inches stretched measure. King salmon may not be retained.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow use of beach seine gear for commercial harvest of chum and pink salmon in Norton Sound subdistricts 5–6 during times of king salmon conservation. Harvest of surplus Norton Sound chum and pink salmon have been reduced for years because of the need to minimize incidental harvest of king salmon. Beach seining was adopted on the Yukon River as a method to allow for the selective harvest of surplus chum salmon. It is believed that this gear type will allow for additional harvest of chum and pink salmon while not harming king salmon. Historically a significant chum harvest occurred between June 2 and July 1. The use of beach seine will allow for additional commercial chum and pink salmon harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-092)
