

PROPOSAL 191 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) a drift gillnet has no minimum mesh size.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Driftnet mesh size. There is no minimum mesh size in any of the Area M Fisheries except in the post-June South Peninsula fishery in the Unimak District and a western portion of the SW District. This area is fished by the entire fleet in June, without mesh size limits, which means that the drift gillnetters who fish in June have to purchase an additional net for Post-June. This imposes a substantial financial burden on drift netters, particularly local drifters that prefer fishing the South Peninsula over the North Peninsula in July. We also feel that it is a housekeeping proposal that would allow a more orderly driftnet fishery.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-096)
