

PROPOSAL 61 – 5 AAC 06.335. Minimum distance between units of gear. Increase the minimum distance drift gillnet operations must maintain from a set gillnet operation in the Nushagak District, as follows:

5 AAC 06.335 (b) Minimum distance between units of gear is amended to read:

No part of a drift gillnet may be operated within 300 feet of the side of a set gillnet and within 100 feet of the offshore end of a set gillnet. [THE 100-FOOT RESTRICTION DOES NOT APPLY SEAWARD OF THE OFFSHORE SETNET DISTANCE RESTRICTIONS SET OUT IN 5 AAC 06.331 (M) AND (N).]

-OR-

(e) In the Nushagak District, from the cannery dock at Clark’s Point to an ADF&G regulatory marker at First Creek, no part of a drift net (including a drift gillnet vessel while operating fishing gear) may be within 100 feet of the offshore end of a set gillnet anchoring device, or outermost marker buoy.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal will help to ensure that drift gillnetters respect the set gillnetters who are fishing at their Shore Fishery Lease held with the state. Too often drifters wind up entangled in set net gear, leading to loss in opportunity to fish; loss of production; anchors, screw anchors, buoys, nets and lines getting damaged. This will help clear up any confusion as to whether or not a drift vessel operator is fishing in a legal manner. All other fishing districts in Bristol Bay have protections from drift gillnet fisherman "corking" offset gillnet fisherman who have no other viable spot to harvest salmon. The Nushagak District should have those same protections offered.

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