(Proposal 174 was submitted by two proposers. The proposal and justification for each proposer is listed below.)

<u>PROPOSAL 174</u> – 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan. Remove provisions (e)(3)(A)(i) and (ii) that restrict the number and/or depth of commercial set gillnets fished by a Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission limited entry permit holder in the Upper Subdistrict if the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery, as follows:

- (A) If the use of bait is prohibited in the Kenai River sport fishery under (1)(A) of this section, commercial fishing periods are open for no more than 36 hours per week, with a 36-hour continuous closure per week beginning between 7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, [, DURING WHICH THE NUMBER OF SET GILLNETS OPERATED MAY ALSO BE RESTRICTED TO EITHER
  - (i) THREE SET GILLNETS THAT ARE EACH NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29 MESH IN DEPTH OR TWO SET GILLNETS THAT ARE NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 45 MESHES IN DEPTH; SET GILLNETS USED THAT ARENOT MORE THAN 29 MESHES IN DEPTH MUST BE IDENTIFIED AT THE END OF THE GILLNET WITH AN ATTACHED BLUE BUOY THAT IS NOT LESS THAN NINE AND ONE HALF INCHES IN DIAMETER; OR
  - (ii) TWO SET GILLNETS THAT ARE EACH NOT MORE 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 29 MESHES IN DEPTH OR ONE SET GILLNET THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 35 FATHOMS IN LENGTH AND 45 MESHES IN DEPTH; SET GILLNETS USED THAT ARENOT MORE THAN 29 MESHES IN DEPTH MUST BE IDENTIFIED AT THE END OF THE GILLNET WITH AN ATTACHED BLUE BUOY THAT IS NOT LESS THAN NINE AND ONE HALF INCHES IN DIAMETER ]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate (i) and (ii) in 21.359(e)(3)(A). These restrictions were implemented using seriously flawed data as evidenced in the Department of Fish and Game's response to the Kintama conclusions. In the State of Alaska's Article titled "Oversimplification of complex harvest modeling issues outlined in Welch *et al.* (2014), the conclusions of Kintama ""paints an unrealistic picture of how simply changing gillnet dimensions would translate into a viable management approach to preserve or increase sockeye salmon harvests while minimizing catch of Chinook salmon"". It is worth noting that prior to these restrictions the department never, in the history of enumerating Chinook salmon on the Kenai River, has failed to achieve the minimum escapement goal. Manage with time and area restrictions instead.

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F16-042)

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 29 meshes in depth provisions oversimplify problems associated with estimating changes in chinook and sockeye

salmon harvests. Simply put a subjective, misleading and contentious experiment with significant costs association. It was rejected four times prior by the BOF.

29 mesh depth presented numerous unintended consequences that arise from unrealistic "solutions."

After the 2014 Board meeting ADFG published a response that did not support the 29 mesh restrictions and "committed to providing the best information possible to the Alaska Board of Fisheries as they deliberate regulatory changes."