

**PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.** Restrict commercial drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Corridors and Drift Gillnet Area 1 from August 1–15, as follows:

Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan as follows:

(e) from August 1 -15, [THERE ARE NO MANDATORY AREA RESTRICTIONS TO REGULAR PERIODS,]

**(1) fishing during both regular 12 hour periods per week will be restricted to one of more of the following sections: (A) Expanded Kenai Section; (B) Expanded Kasilof Section; (C) Anchor Point Section; (D) Drift Gillnet Area 1,** except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed under 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iiii), or the department determines that less than one percent of the season’s total drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the drift gill net fishery, regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Area [S 3 AND] 4. In this subsection, “fishing period” means a time period open to commercial fishing [as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.] **of 12 hours during a calendar day.**

**(2) additional fishing time under this subsection is allowed only in one or more of the following sections; (A) Expanded Kenai Section; (B) Expanded Kasilof Section; (C) Anchor Point.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** While changes to the drift management plan adopted by the board in 2014 have proven more effective in increasing escapements of Northern District drainage salmon stocks during July and providing more reasonable harvest opportunities for Northern District user groups during July, management during 2015 proved the plan inadequate in continuing those benefits throughout August. As currently configured the plan allows excessive amounts of drift gillnet fishing during the first half of August which jeopardizes both attainment of Northern District drainage salmon escapement needs and reasonable salmon harvest opportunities for Northern District and Northern District drainage user groups. Therefore, to address Northern conservation concerns and to allow more reasonable Northern harvest opportunity for other user groups, this proposal seeks to amend the drift management plan in a manner that still maintains drift gillnetters an extremely liberal opportunity to harvest surplus sockeye salmon during times of August abundance. Note: under this proposal even if the drift fishery was restricted under the 1 % rule, ADF&G could still allow the fleet to fish 7 days per week (5 days per week in the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and Anchor Point Sections and 2 days per week in Drift Gillet Area 4 during a portion of the season when sockeye salmon abundance is in decline). Considering restrictions on other user groups during the August 1-31 timeframe, this proposal, if adopted, should increase the likelihood of attaining minimum Northern District escapement needs, provide more reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern and other user groups, while retaining significant drift gillnet harvest opportunity during August.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Sport Fishing Association (HQ-F16-001)  
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