

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 01.620. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Prohibit using a dip net from a boat to harvest salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as follows:

(b)(5) It is unlawful to harvest salmon using a dip net from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvesting salmon with a dip from a boat in the Glennallen Subdistrict, individuals are dip netting from a boat targeting schools of salmon. When they find a school of fish they take their limit within a short limit of time, not allowing for escapement. Subsistence fishermen are catching salmon away from the shoreline of the Copper River, salmon rest in holes away from the shoreline in high water and are susceptible to being easily caught in dip nets from boats using electronics. Once a holding hole is located, a boat with electronics makes multiple passes until the fish are cleaned out. When the water drops, there are no fish left to continue to the spawning beds. The Copper River Red Salmon escapement goal return was not at its' normal return, it was below the normal run. King Salmon spawning escapement in 2016 was only 50% of the sustainable escapement goal. If this keeps up, our Chinook stocks will be depleted in a very short time. Fishing from a boat with dip nets may be the reason for low return of Reds and King Salmon.

Fishing from a boat is not a customary and traditional method and means to harvest fish. This new method is causing unintended overharvest and allocation issues that must be addressed. In 2015 the subsistence dip net gear type caught more kings than fish wheel gear type. This is primarily an increase in efficiency using boats as a dip net platform to increase efficiency with growing non-historical participation using this gear type. Fish wheels, ice fishing, and dip nets with platforms are customary and traditional methods of harvesting fish. Ahtna People did not use boats to fish from, they fished for salmon with a dip net while standing on a platform. Boats were used to travel from one place to another place.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary and Traditional Use Committee (HQ-F17-022)
