

## **PROPOSAL 28**

### **5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Allow commercial fishing for salmon, with set net gear only, within the section of the Kvichak River that borders Levelock Village land, as follows:

### **5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations**

**(new) within the Kvichak Section, along the west bank of the Kvichak River adjacent to the land of the village of Levelock, from the southern point, 59.10321 N, 156.8661 W to the northern point, 59.11478 N, 156.85106 W, near Levelock Creek.**

**(A) set gillnet gear may be operated only as follows:**

**(1) a set gillnet may not exceed 25 fathoms in length;**

**(2) a set gillnet may not be set or operated within 300 feet of another set gillnet;**

**(4) a set gillnet must be operated in a substantially straight line perpendicular to the nearest bank of the Kvichak River;**

**(5) all gear and equipment associated with set gillnet fishing in this area must be removed from the water when it is not being used to fish in the this area;**

**(B) Sockeye salmon harvested within this area shall be tallied against the 8% set net allocation for the Kvichak Section.**

**(2) a CFEC permit holder may not use more than one gillnet to take salmon at any one time.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow for the commercial harvest of salmon, with set net gear only, within the section of the Kvichak River that borders Levelock Village land.

This proposal area includes only the west bank of the Kvichak River from (59.10321 N, 156.8661 W), near the south end of the town, to the northern banks of Levelock, near Levelock Creek (59.11478 N, 156.85106 W). This area would provide up to 16 commercially regulated set net sites, each separated by a distance of 300 feet from each other. We consider this proposal a logical scenario because it is based on the harvesting salmon that have escaped the traditional fisheries in the Naknek-Kvichak District and are also in excess of subsistence needs and targeted escapement requirements. If this proposal is accepted, it would provide opportunities for new fishers or retired fishers, to establish or reestablish themselves as Bristol Bay commercial fishermen and it would tend to bring commercial fishing permits back to Alaska residents.

Additionally, residents could participate in this fishery without a massive outlay of resources because they would not need a fully planned operation as to boats and motors. The community and the fish processing plant can work with the fisherman/participants by letting them use the machinery/equipment, supplies, ice machine, etc. This community and fish-processing plant support would be available to assist all the commercial fishers participating in this fishery and the fishery in the Alagnak River Special Harvest Area. This relationship amongst the community, Levelock fish-processing plant, and fisherman would benefit all involved and contribute to a viable, self-sustaining community.

The processing plant in Levelock will provide services with buying the fisherman's harvest, and provide them with profitable returns. We will have economic growth and a re-established

workforce in Bristol Bay area. We plan to expand our plant soon with adequate freezer equipment. Currently, we have the capacity to process up to 12,000 pounds of fish per day with the freezing system we have now. However, we plan to increase our capacity of processing and freezing up to 35,000 lbs. per day. We have other projects like IKURA Salmon Roe projects that's coming in the near future. In addition to providing a viable fishery to residents, this proposal would also provide new opportunities to residents to obtain a commercial fishing permit and fish in their traditional fishing locations. Our long-term goal is to achieve sustainability of a fish processing plant that will provide employment and much needed income to the residents in the area. We are especially focused at the youth and elders. We believe that through employment at our plant and fishery, we are instilling in them responsibility, ambition, and a way of life, a sense of worth and value. Our plans for the plant and the nearby fisheries are for the long term. But first and foremost, we would value this proposed fishery to harvest fish for a profitable commercial fishing grounds.

We respectfully request the Alaska Board of Fisheries, to pass this proposal. It would allow fisherman alternative routes to harvest salmon, which are excess to the Kvichak River targeted escapement goal and have escaped the traditional Naknek- Kvichak District commercial fisheries. The results of the passage of this proposal would also provide added benefits such as providing employment opportunities to residents in the area, as well as, facilitating the transfer of commercial fishing permit buy backs from nonresidents to the residents of Bristol Bay Alaska.

Another option for the BOF to consider is to make this section, as described above, a special harvest area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Levelock Village Council

(HQ-F18-049)

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