

PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 05.330. Gear.

Allow use of beach seine gear to harvest salmon during open commercial fishing periods in Districts 1 – 3 of the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 05.330. Gear. (a) In Districts 1 - 3, **beach seine gear, set gillnets, and drift gillnets** [SET GILLNETS AND DRIFT GILLNETS] only may be operated, except that in District 1 after July 15 set gillnets only may be operated in the following locations:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Management Plan (k)(1)(B)(2) allows the use of beach seine (and dip net) gear only during the Yukon River Summer Chum commercial fishing opportunities in Districts 1 - 3 in effort to conserve the Yukon River Chinook salmon stock.

Since being introduced to this regulation, and adapting to a new style of fishing, we have found that the use of beach seine gear greatly increases the quality of fish being caught by eliminating net marks and bruising in comparison to those being caught in gillnet gear.

I propose that the use of beach seine gear be allowed as optional gear during **all** Yukon River District 1-3 salmon commercial fishing opportunities, including Fall Chum and Coho, which are currently limited to the use of gill net gear only. Chinook salmon caught in beach seine gear (during fall commercial openings) may be kept for personal use or may be released alive.

PROPOSED BY: Jaylene Fitka

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