

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 01.570. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Allow set gillnets to be operated for subsistence purposes within 300 feet of each other in the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.570 (b) (3) no part of a set gillnet may be set or operated within **300**[600] feet of any part of another set gillnet;

Reducing the required minimum lineal distance between setnets would allow more people to participate in the traditional subsistence fishery, thus preserving Seldovia’s cultural traditions and improving local food security. The total number of setnets would still be quite limited, and it is our belief that this change in regulations would not significantly impact the salmon returns for other local fisheries or for escapement goals.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area available for subsistence fishing in the Seldovia area is quite limited, and much of the designated area consists of cliff faces, areas with large kelp patches, areas with heavy surf, and areas important for other subsistence uses such as gathering food in the intertidal zone, which makes these areas poor locations for subsistence setnets. The small geographic area conducive to set netting, compounded by the regulation requiring 600 lineal feet between nets, means that some people who would like to participate in the fishery are precluded from doing so because there is insufficient area to accommodate all would-be participants.

PROPOSED BY: Seldovia Village Tribe

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