

**PROPOSAL 111**

**5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operation.**

Change the maximum drift gillnet mesh size during periods established by emergency order from 6 inches to 6 and one-eighth inches, as follows:

5AAC 33.331 Gillnet specification and operation

(d) In Districts 6, 8, 11 and 15, through the fourth Saturday in July, the commissioner may, by emergency order, establish fishing periods during which the maximum gillnet mesh size is **six and one eighth inch (6-1/8")** [SIX INCHES]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like to address the ability of the fleet to buy a 6" net off the shelf of the gear suppliers that would allow you to fish the same 6" net during the times of net restrictions for a maximum and minimum net size of 6". Gillnet mesh stretch after use. The amount of stretch depends upon a multitude of conditions including but not limited to: manufacturing machine tolerances of 5%, size of twine, type of twine, the temperature and humidity of the facility when twine and net are manufactured. Without this change, to be on the safe side fishermen would have to buy two nets for many of these areas, a 5-3/4" or so for the maximum and a 6" for the minimum mesh restriction. A full brand new 200 fathom net with all lines is approximately \$7,000. By making the maximum size a tad bigger this allows for the net to stretch and still be legal for both net size restrictions reducing the cost for fishermen. A 6-1/8" net would have to be special ordered as it is not a commonly stocked size net. Unfortunately, if you buy a six inch net in good faith you won't know what size it will be until you fish your net for over 24 hours.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

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