

**PROPOSAL 106**

**5 AAC 40.053. District 3: Port Saint Nicholas Special Harvest Area.**

Modify boundaries of the Port Saint Nicholas Special Harvest Area and allow use of drift gillnet gear for cost recovery operations, as follows:

5 AAC 40.053 (a) is amended to read:

There is established the Port Saint Nicholas Special Harvest area, consisting of all waters of Port Saint Nicholas east of [133° 02.92' W. LONG]. **the longitude of Point Miraballes at 133° 05.23' W. long.**, and west of the longitude at 132° 59.50' W. long., located at the mouth of the Port Saint Nicholas head stream.

And

5 AAC 40.053 (c) is amended to read:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 33.330, legal gear for the hatchery permit holder in the special harvest area are purse seine, beach seine, dip net, **and gillnet.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), is a non-profit regional salmon enhancement association headquartered in Ketchikan, Alaska. SSRAA operates the Port Saint Nicholas (PSN) Hatchery which releases chinook salmon at a net pen site in Port Saint Nicholas. PSN chinook salmon eggs are incubated and reared at Port St. Nicholas Hatchery. Saltwater grow-out and imprinting these chinook smolts is done at the PSN net pen site. The adult chinook are caught in winter and spring fisheries throughout the region, and mature adults return to PSN through fisheries in Districts 3 and 4 and enter PSN starting in May. These salmon are well segregated from natural stocks when they are in the terminal area. Common property fishers in and near the terminal area are expected to catch a majority of these fish, and SSRAA will clean up the rest as cost recovery. SSRAA proposes that the SHA is enlarged to accommodate the potential for expanded cost recovery fishing for incrementally larger releases of chinook salmon when compared to the previous PSN operator, POWHA (Prince of Wales Hatchery Association). This proposed SHA line will also mirror the newly-proposed net fishery THA line for PSN which is being heard this Board cycle. Finally, adding gillnet as a legal gear type will allow SSRAA an additional tool to fully harvest all the returning chinook in a cost recovery clean-up, which is a permit condition and best management practice.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (EF-F20-114)

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