

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Require reporting and recovery of lost drift gillnet gear, as follows:

Gillnet operation – lost net reporting

5 AAC 33.331(#) A permit holder fishing in the Southeastern Alaska Area must report the loss of a gillnet, or portion of a gillnet, to the local ADF&G department office or enforcement in which they are fishing within 12 hours of the loss of the gillnet, or portion of the gillnet. For the purposes of this subsection, the report must be made directly to a local representative of the department in person or by telephone. The person must take every reasonable effort as safety allows to recover the lost gillnet if located;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the summer of 2019, a commercial drift gillnet fisherman lost his gillnet in district 6 on the north east side of Prince of Wales Island. The net drifted freely catching salmon as well as marine mammals until it became tangled on rocks in Snow Pass. The fisherman never attempted to recover his net. Other mariners and fishermen observed the net as it continued to fish. At this time, it became obvious that there was no lost net reporting requirement in Southeastern Alaska like other areas of the state. There is no cork ADF&G number marking requirements as well.

The East POW AC and local residents understand that nets will get damage and lost. However if a commercial drift gillnetter had regulation stating that they must report lost nets and recover them, many fish and marine mammals will not die and waste in these lost nets. Vessels will also not become entangled in them as well. Commercial drift gillnetters who saw the 2019 lost net stated they understood the need for this proposal.

This regulation will allow enforcement action to be taken against a person who carelessly uses the marine waters of Southeastern Alaska as their net dumping grounds. If enacted, the board should also consider a net cork ADF&G number marking requirement as well. This regulation will affect all drift gillnetters in Southeastern Alaska to prevent unwanted waste of salmon and marine mammals as well as a negative view of the gillnet fleet.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-090)

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

(HQ-F20-095)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Provide the department authority to allow drift gillnets of up to 90 meshes in depth to be used in the District 11 drift gillnet fishery beginning in SW 34, as follows:

b) In the Southeastern Alaska Area, a drift gillnet may not be more than 60 meshes in depth, except that there is no maximum depth restriction for a gillnet operated for king salmon cost recovery by a private nonprofit hatchery operator or under contract to a regional aquaculture association in a special harvest area described in 5 AAC 40.030 - 5 AAC 40.081.

(1) in district 11, beginning statistical week 34, at the departments discretion, by emergency order, a drift gill net may not be more than 90 meshes in depth.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The United States has shown an inability to harvest their allowable catch afforded them by the Pacific Salmon Commission Treaty Annex for coho on the Taku River. The current tools only allow increased time and area, which is useful, but use of these tools has not increased catches significantly, as coho tend to travel deeper in the water column. Having deeper nets may increase stakeholders ability to harvest these valuable fish. Adoption of this proposal will give the department a valuable tool for harvesting the United States gillnet allowable catch of PSC treaty Taku coho in times of high abundance.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

(HQ-F20-121)

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Change the maximum mesh size during periods established by emergency order from 6 inches to a range of five and one-quarter to 6 inches and define dates in Districts 6, 8 and 11 when the mesh size will be implemented, as follows:

5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations

(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 **5.25 inches - 6 inches** [SIX INCHES].

(1) For districts 6 and 8, up to July 1st, when the projected terminal run size forecast for Stikine River large Chinook does not allow for a direct Chinook fishery to transpire.

(2) For district 11 up to July 1st, when the projected terminal run size forecast for the Taku River large Chinook does not allow for a direct Chinook fishery to transpire.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stikine and Taku Chinook runs are not doing well. It has been qualified by the department that the problem is not over fishing, but the fact remains that these runs would be in better shape to endure the current crises had there been more spawners in the river. This proposal's intent is to ensure that the Stikine and Taku Chinook runs are given the best chance for recovery as can be given. The department has in the past, managed the driftnet sockeye opening in June conservatively, with a 6 inch mesh restriction only if the predicted Chinook terminal run of either river was below the midpoint and near the lower end of the escapement goal range. Often when the predicted terminal run was above the midpoint but below what was necessary to allow a directed Chinook fishery to occur, no mesh restriction was applied. This has happened in the Stikine regional management area in the years 2013 thru 2016. By default, not requiring a mesh restriction during what the driftnet management plan specifies as a sockeye fishery, is in fact allowing a direct Chinook fishery to occur. There is new terminology adopted in the 2019 Transboundary Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, defining when a direct fishery can occur. However, this new language does not change the fact, that if a direct fishery is not called for a king net could be allowed in the June sockeye fishery. The direct fisheries for Chinook only occur in districts 8 and 11, yet district 8 is semi-surrounded by district 6 and Stikine Chinook will be intercepted there on their way to the river drainage in the June sockeye fishery. I included district 6 in this proposal because of that and also the impacts of this proposal on the driftnet sockeye fishery. From the 2019 driftnet management plan concerning district 6 and 8 pg 11 below.

“Sockeye salmon fishing in both districts will be managed in accordance with the TBR Annex of the PST. The Annex allows District 6 to be managed primarily for local Alaska sockeye salmon stocks. Management of District 8 is based on the harvest of sockeye salmon of Stikine River origin,” and “During the first few weeks of the sockeye salmon fishery, any extended fishing time or midweek openings will be based on the preseason forecasts, harvest, expected harvest levels, and stock proportion data.”

If the sockeye fishery's performance data is used to determine the potential terminal runs of sockeye to these Transboundary rivers and other local systems, allowing a net mesh that enables

the target species to swim thru it, defeats that purpose. In district 6 and 8 king nets have been used during the June sockeye fishery when no mesh restrictions were required. This practice is potentially costly to the gillnet fleet since the sockeye run could be underestimated, thus leading to less fishing periods.

There is a base level catch (BLC) of Transboundary river kings allowed for each country to procure other fisheries when a direct king salmon fishery is not warranted. Pg.23 of the 2019 Transboundary agreement below.

“(Q) When the terminal run is insufficient to provide for the Parties’ Stikine River Chinook salmon BLC and the lower end of the escapement goal range, the reductions in each Party’s base level fisheries, i.e. the fisheries that contributed to the BLCs, shall be proportional to the Stikine BLC shares.”

The term base level fisheries could only be fisheries that incidentally harvest Transboundary river king salmon. Because if it wasn’t incidental, it would have to be intentional or direct. So, for Alaska to allow a king net during a sockeye fishery would in fact be targeting the base level catch of Chinook and a direct fishery, when the purpose of the BLC is really for incidental harvest.

Allowing a king net during the June sockeye fisheries could also be to target Anita bay and other Alaska hatchery king salmon. Yet there is no management plan for the driftnet fleet to target hatchery king salmon outside of the terminal areas and I seriously doubt the Board of Fisheries would approve one, given that the driftnet fleet has been consistently 13-15% over their hatchery allocation. In fact, the current practice of allowing king nets in the June sockeye fishery, defiantly contributes to the driftnet overage as it is.

I have left the actual mesh size of this proposal to be determined by the Board of Fisheries if they choose to adopt it. Why? Because I do not understand the current department policy when it comes to a mesh restriction, six inches is the choice.

The department has done a study on gillnet mesh size effectiveness, “Catch Efficiency Comparisons Of Four Commercial Gillnet Mesh Sizes In The Taking Of Sockeye And Chum Salmon In Districts 111 And 115, Southeast Alaska.” From that study (pg 4 and I paraphrase): In District 111, the 6" mesh caught the fewest sockeye over the study period (2.6 fish/hour), The 5 1/4" mesh was significantly more effective in catching sockeye salmon than the 5 3/4, 6", and 6 1/4" mesh sizes, and the 5 3/4" was significantly more effective than the 6" or 6 1/4" mesh.

When the target species is sockeye, it makes little sense, if the above study is referenced for the department traditionally to implement a 6 inch mesh restriction. So, I let the Board of Fisheries decide and maybe some new information will become evident and help them with the decision.

Finally, I have limited the time frame in which this mesh restriction would apply because both the Taku and Stikine Chinook runs are 100% in river by the first part of July. Imposing a mesh restriction beyond that time would be an unnecessary burden on the gillnet fleet and deprive them of opportunity to harvest wild and hatchery chum and Chinook salmon. Yet, not continuing the restriction until the fourth Saturday in July, still may affect the data used for the sockeye fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Merritt

(HQ-F20-115)

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.

Allow the use of fishing rods in conjunction with downriggers by hand trollers, as follows:

The new regulation would omit the downrigger restrictions and simply state:

"(B) from each fishing rod: only one line with no more than one leader and one lure or two baited hooks per leader"

OR

"(B) from each fishing rod: only one line with no more than one leader and one lure or two baited hooks per leader; no more than one fishing rod may be attached to a downrigger"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations (b) (2) (B) states:

"(B) from each fishing rod: only one line with no more than one leader and one lure or two baited hooks per leader; a downrigger may not be used in conjunction with a fishing rod"

The specific issue to address is the unnecessary restrictions placed on hand trollers by prohibiting the use of downriggers in conjunction with fishing rods. Downriggers are simply a mechanism to control the depth of the hooks. Accurately controlling depth is a key part of targeting fish species, especially during chinook openings. It is an unfair and unnecessary restriction, especially to those that are starting out in the hand troll fishery or those that are fishing from vessels that cannot be, or cannot easily be, equipped with hand troll gurdies. If the concern is somehow the ability to use the downrigger for multiple lines, I have also included alternative language that could be adopted.

PROPOSED BY: William Dawley

(EF-F20-038)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 29.070. General fishing seasons and periods.

Modify the start date of the winter troll fishery, as follows:

The fishing seasons for the salmon troll fishery are as follows:

winter season from October 1 through April 30.

summer season from May 1 through September 30.

(b) The department shall manage the king salmon troll fishery to provide for

(1) a winter fishery during the period beginning October 11 **the first day of week 41** through April 30 or until the guideline harvest level is reached, as specified in 5 AAC 29.080, whichever occurs first;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the 2019-2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) agreement the CPUE winter troll assessment begins on ADF&G statistical Week 41. The first day of a statistical week is Sunday. The PST does not give Alaskan domestic management direction for an opening date for the fishery.

In recent years the Winter Troll Fishery opened on Oct 11th. During the 2018–2020 seasons the Winter Troll Fishery, under provisions of the Unuk River Stock of Concern (SOC) management plan, closed 6 weeks early (March 15th,) without reaching the Winter Troll GHF of 45,000 non-Alaskan hatchery fish.

The early closure of this lucrative part of the season has economically devastated SEAK’s trollers. During the Early Winter Troll Fishery (Oct-Dec), the estimated abundance and encounters of Southeast Alaska (SEAK) SOC are lower than at other times of the year. Opening the Winter Troll Fishery on the first day of Week 41 would give trollers back a few days of trolling when king salmon are at their highest value and with lower impact on SEAK SOC.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association

(EF-F20-047)

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 29.140. Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Require retention of king salmon caught during periods of nonretention to be retained if they are deemed too injured to be released and set price at one dollar for selling retained fish, as follows:

Whereas King salmon taken as bycatch during a closed season may be too injured to survive, the release of an obviously injured fish constitutes waste of a valuable resource. Such waste serves no useful purpose. When a king salmon is deemed unsalvageable by the fisher, said fish may be retained and sold for a price to the fisher of one dollar. The remainder of the commercial value of said fish shall accrue to the State of Alaska.

Such a provision would prevent waste, and the minimal compensation would prevent false claims by the fisher. I live near a hub for troll fishing and hear first-hand the anguish that fishers feel when they release a fish that will likely die as evidenced by excessive bleeding.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Issue: Waste of king salmon taken as bycatch during troll fishery openings for other species

PROPOSED BY: Ralph Wells

(EF-F20-004)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 29.112. Management of chum salmon troll fishery.

Allow trollers the use of two additional fishing lines in designated chum troll fishing areas in August and September, as follows:

5 AAC 29.112. Management of chum salmon troll fishery

(a) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, a hatchery chum salmon troll fishery only during the summer coho salmon troll fishery closures specified in 5 AAC 29.110(b)(2).

(b) If the commissioner opens a season under (a) of this section, chum salmon fishing will occur only

(1) in the waters of Sitka Sound and the Eastern Channel east of a line from Vitskari Rock Light to Inner Point, south of a line from Inner Point to Black Rock at 57_ 03.12' N. lat., 135_ 25.63' W. long., to Signal Island Light at 57_ 02.78' N. lat., 135_ 23.58' W. long., and north of a line from Cape Burunof at 56_ 59.03' N. lat., 135_ 23.23' W. long., to Kulichkof Rock at 56_ 59.52' N. lat., 135_ 26.62' W. long., to Vitskari Rock Light

(2) in the waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island; and

(3) in the portions of Crawfish Inlet east of 135_ 11.05' W. long., as determined by the department for conservation management reasons.

(c) When the summer king salmon troll fishery is closed, a person may not have king salmon on board a salmon troll vessel while fishing for chum salmon.

(d) When the summer coho salmon troll fishery is closed, a person may not have coho salmon on board a salmon troll vessel while fishing for chum salmon.

(e) In the areas described in areas (1) (3) and (4) in this section trollers may use 6 lines during the following times in the defined areas. * Note that area "(4)" is the new West Crawfish area:

(1) August and September (historic enhanced chum troll run season for these areas)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For a variety of reasons, trollers are chronically behind their enhanced chum troll allocation. The objective of this proposal is to provide a means of modifying the allowable troll gear on a licensed troll vessel, to allow the use of 6 lines for targeting chums in the areas defined in this proposal, solely for the purpose of achieving greater success of harvesting the enhanced chum troll allocation. This proposal will provide considerable positive outcomes such as contributing to the ongoing problem solving ideas and concepts of facilitating getting trollers closer to their allocation while helping to alleviate often other contentious discussions and management issues such as adjustments to time and/or area closures to net fisheries in the vicinity of these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Farvour

(EF-F20-110)

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 33.200. Fishing districts and sections.

Modify the boundaries of Districts 6 and 8 in Sumner Strait, as follows:

5 AAC 33.200(f)(1) and 5 AAC 33.200(h)

(f) District 6: all water of Clarence Strait north of a line from Narrow Point to Lemesurier Point to Ernest Point to the most southerly point on Etolin Island, Stikine Strait south of the latitude of Round Point, Sumner Strait west of a line from Point Alexander, to [LOW POINT] **Northwestern tip of Northerly Island** east of a line from Point Baker to Point Barrie, Wrangell Narrows south and west of a line from Prolewy Point to the northern tip of Mitkof Island and all waters of Duncan Canal;

(1) Section 6-A: water north of a line from the tip of Point Colpys to the tip of Macnamara Point, west of a line from the [TIP OF LOW POINT] **Northwestern Tip of Northerly Island** to the tip of Point Alexander and east of a line from the tip of Point Barrie to the tip of Point Baker.

...

(h) District 8: waters of Frederick Sound south of a line from Wood Point to Beacon Point (excluding Wrangell Narrows), Sumner Strait east of a line from Point Alexander to [LOW POINT] **Northwestern Tip of Northerly Island** Stikine Strait north of the latitude of Round Point, Zimovia Strait north of the latitude of Nemo Point and Eastern Passage west of a line from Hour Point (56 degrees, 27.80' N. lat., 132 degrees, 16.63 W. long), to Babler Point;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Fish to adopt change to the District 6 and 8 boundary line from the normal boundary from Point Alexander 56 degrees, 30.55 minutes North Latitude, 132 degrees 57.01 minutes West Longitude to Low Point 56 degrees, 27.17 North Latitude, 132 degrees 57.17 West Longitude.

Change boundary line to Point Alexander 56 degrees, 30.55 minutes north, 132 degrees, 57.01 minutes West to the Northwestern Tip of Northerly Island at 56 degrees, 26.56 North Latitude, 132 degrees, 58.63 minutes West Longitude. This adjustment moves the southern marker approximately 3/4 mile West.

The department often does a slight Westerly adjustment of the district 6 and 8 boundary line during regular drift gillnet openings and drift gillnet midweek openings. Adopting the change would make it unnecessary to make constant adjustments to the boundary line reducing any confusion if there were any changes during a drift gillnet midweek opening. Also, the normal southern line has reef and pinnacle hazards along the beach, moving the line slightly west moves the fishery away from the hazard and allows for a more orderly line fishery. This does not make sockeye more vulnerable since fishing this area is a tide change area which does not last very long until the tide runs too hard to be effective and the main body of sockeye pushes past.

If the regulation is not changed, this will not have much affect on any District 8 fishery. The department will continue doing as they have to establish lines for a fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Ed Tagaban

(EF-F20-051)

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 33.200. Fishing district and sections; 5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear; and 5 AAC 33.359. Section 6-D Pink salmon management plan.

Create a new section in District 6 and reimplement the Section 6-D Pink Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 33.200 (f), 5 AAC 33.310(a)(6) and (c)(2)(B) and 5 AAC 33.359 are amended to read:

5 AAC 33.200 (f)(4) Section 6-D: [ALL OTHER WATERS OF THE DISTRICT] waters east of Sections 6-B and 6-C and west of a line from Mariposa Rock Buoy at 56o10.68' N. lat., 132o44.36'W. long. to the northernmost tip of Point Harrington at 56o10.27' N. lat., 132o43.57' W. long. to a point on Etolin Island at 56o09.60' N. lat., 132o42.70' W. long. to the southernmost tip of Point Stanhope at 56o00.69' N. lat., 132o36.47' W. long.
(f)(5) Section 6-E: all other waters of the district.

5 AAC 33.310(a)(6) District 6, Sections 6-C, 6-D and 6-E only;

(c)(2)(B) Section[S] 6-D [WEST OF A LINE FROM MARIPOSA ROCK BUOY AT 56O10.68' N. LAT., 132O44.36'W. LONG. TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT HARRINGTON AT 56O10.27' N. LAT., 132O43.57' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON ETOLIN ISLAND AT 56O09.60' N. LAT., 132O42.70' W.LONG. TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT STANHOPE AT 56000.69' N. LAT., 132O36.47' W. LONG.] is open.

5 AAC 33.359 Section 6-D Pink Salmon Management Plan. (a) The department may open those portions of Section 6-D [DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.313(C)(2)(B)] to drift gillnet fishing during the period of time that is after the first Saturday in August and before the first Sunday in September as described in this section.

(b) If a purse seine fishery is announced to be opened or is opened in [THE PORTION OF] Section 6-D [DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.310(C)(2)(B)] for any portion of one day, the drift gillnet fishery may open in [THE SAME PORTION OF] Section 6-D as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The portion of Section 6-D that may open to drift gillnetting at certain times of the salmon season should be clearly defined. This issue has been confusing for many years. We suggest that a new section in District 6 be adopted that clearly defines this area. This change would not affect existing purse seine and drift gillnet fishing opportunities in District 6.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Leach and Doug Rhodes

(EF-F20-061)

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 33.200. Fishing district and sections; 5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear; and 5 AAC 33.359. Section 6-D Pink salmon management plan.

Remove Section 6-D closure to fishing with drift gillnet gear during the month of August, as follows:

During Pink Salmon Management, if no purse seine openings are scheduled in 6-E, 6-E would be open to gillnetting when District 6 is open.

5 AAC 33.359 Section 6-D Pink Salmon Management Plan. (a) The department may open [THOSE PORTIONS OF] Section 6-D [DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.313(C)(2)(B)] to drift gillnet fishing during the period of time that is after the first Saturday in August and before the first Sunday in September as described in this section.

5 AAC 33.310(a)(6) District 6, Sections 6-C, 6-D **and 6-E** only;

(c)(2)(B) Sections **6-D and 6-E** [WEST OF A LINE FROM MARIPOSA ROCK BUOY AT 56°10.68' N. LAT., 132°44.36' W. LONG. TO THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT HARRINGTON AT 56°10.27' N. LAT., 132°43.57' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON ETOLIN ISLAND AT 56°09.60' N. LAT., 132°42.70' W. LONG. TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF POINT STANHOPE AT 56°00.69' N. LAT., 132°36.47' W. LONG.] is open.

5 AAC 33.359

(a) **(1)** The department may open [THOSE PORTIONS OF] Section 6-D [DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 33.313(C)(2)(B)] to drift gillnet fishing during the period of time that is after the first Saturday in August and before the first Sunday in September as described in this section.

(2) Section 6-E will open and close by emergency order for commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear concurrent with drift gillnet commercial salmon fishing periods in any other portion of District 6.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 6-E being closed during Pink Salmon Management makes it difficult to fish District 6 without drifting over the 6-E boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Leach and Doug Rhodes

(EF-F20-062)

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Establish waters closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing in and around Coffman Cove, as follows:

Closed waters for taking salmon with net gear.

5 AAC 33.350(g)(17), close the waters for net gear in Coffman Cove waters north and west of line from a point located at 56°00.959'N lat., 132°48.653'W long to a point at the southern tip of The Triplets located at 56°03.470'N lat., 132°49.960'W long, and south of the latitude of 56°03.470 which is located at the southern tip of The Triplets;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Coffman Cove have seen a greater presence of un-guided non-resident sport fishing anglers and commercial gillnetters in the area of Coffman Cove. Both the un-guided non-resident vessels as well as local resident vessels have had issues while attempting to leave and return back to Coffman Cove while navigating around commercial gillnets. Commercial gillnetters will fish 300 fathom drift gillnets directly at the mouth of Coffman Cove. Clarence Strait is known to having harsh wind and sea conditions. Skiffs have ran into drift gillnets while attempting to return back into the safe waters of Coffman Cove. At the writing of this proposal, there have been no reported injuries or death associated with collisions with drift gillnets near Coffman. This proposal is being submitted in an attempt to prevent any collisions of small sport fish vessels and the commercial gillnets. Coffman Cove sport fisherman often times leave Coffman Cove and fish from The Triplets further north. Closing a small area, due to the safety concern, in the area given is in an attempt to protect life and prevent injuries as well as protect damage to commercial nets. This regulation change will not greatly effect commercial gillnetters as they will adapt by fishing the next point, three quarters of a mile south of the entrance of Coffman Cove.

PROPOSED BY: The East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-089)

PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Remove sunset date so regulation remains in effect, as follows:

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

- (a) During July, the department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 north of Point Marsden to harvest pink salmon migrating northward in Chatham Strait only as follows:
 - (1) the department may open only those portions of the area in which a harvestable abundance of pink salmon is observed; open areas and times must consider conservation concerns for all species in the area;
 - (2) [THROUGH THE 2020 SEASON] the department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden after 15,000 wild sockeye salmon are harvested by seine vessels that the department identifies as taken north of Point Marsden when other areas are open concurrently through July 22; hatchery-produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 wild sockeye salmon harvest limit; during the openings, the department will use aerial flyovers, on-the-ground sampling, interviews, and fish tickets to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to make 5 AAC 33.366 (a)(2) permanent. That regulation is currently set to expire after the 2020 season. That provision in this regulation, particularly the sockeye salmon accounting date of July 22, was the result of compromise between the commercial net gear groups during the 2018 Southeast Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Native Inter-Tribal Association of Seiners (HQ-F20-007)

PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Remove the sunset date so regulation remains in effect and change effective end date of the plan from July 22 to July 15, as follows:

5 AAC 33.366

(a) During July, the department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 north of Point Marsden to harvest pink salmon migrating northward in Chatham Strait only as follows:

(1) The department may open only those portions of the area in which a harvestable abundance of pink salmon is observed; open areas and times must consider conservation concerns for all species in the area;

(2) [THROUGH THE 2020 SEASON] The department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden after 15,000 wild sockeye salmon are harvested by seine vessels that the department identifies as taken north of Point Marsden when other areas are open concurrently through July 15 [22]; hatchery-produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 wild sockeye salmon harvest limit; during the openings, the department will use aerial flyovers, on-the-ground sampling, interviews, and fish tickets to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The provisions in section (2) sunsets and needs to be addressed. We would like to have access to north migrating pink salmon during years when abundance allows.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Seiners Association

(HQ-F20-103)

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plan.

Establish additional guidelines for the department to manage the District 12 purse seine fishery north of Point Marsden, as follows:

5 AAC 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plan. (a) during the month of July, the department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 north of Point Marsden to harvest pink salmon migrating northward in Chatham Strait only as follows:

(1) the department may open only those portions of the area in which a harvestable abundance of pink salmon is observed; open areas and times must consider conservation concerns for all species in the area;

(2) the department shall close the seine fishery in District 12 north of Point Marsden during July after 15,000 wild sockeye salmon are taken, as described in this paragraph; during the openings, the department will use aerial flyovers, on the ground sampling, interviews, and fish tickets to estimate the sockeye salmon harvest north of Point Marsden in District 12; hatchery-produced sockeye salmon will not count against the 15,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit; the wild sockeye salmon that will count against the 15000 sockeye salmon limit under this paragraph is as follows.

(A) all wild sockeye salmon harvested by seine vessels that the department identifies as fishing north of Point Marsden in District 12 during any July fishing period when other areas are open concurrently.

(b) Salmon may be taken during emergency order openings for chum salmon in Excursion Inlet only in waters of Section 14-C north of the latitude of the northern tip of the Porpoise Islands. The commissioner may open the area by emergency order only after consideration of concerns for chum and coho salmon conservation.

(c) The department may allow the operation of purse seines in District 12 south of Point Marsden. Before opening fishing areas and times under this subsection, the department must consider conservation concerns for all salmon species in the area, and

(1) the portion of District 12 within two miles of the Admiralty Island shoreline south of the latitude of Point Hepburn at 57° 56.21' N. lat. and north of the latitude of Fishery Point at 57° 47.36' N. lat. may not open before July 17;

(2) the portion of District 12 within two miles of the Admiralty Island shoreline south of the latitude of Fishery Point at 57° 47.36' N. lat. and north of the latitude of Parker Point at 57° 36.73' N. lat. may not open before July 21.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the 2018 SE Finfish meeting, an agreement was made between the seines and gillnets on a seine generated proposal to move the wild sockeye cap ending date to July 22 from its original date of through the month of July. The regulation was to sunset after three years. As a result of poor wording in the regulation, the wild 15,000 sockeye cap will also sunset out of regulation. This was not the intent of the agreement, as our gear group would never have signed on. The 15,000 sockeye cap is a long standing regulation that recognizes the highly mixed stocked aspects of this particular area. We feel that the 15,000 cap is an important management tool, particularly in high abundance pink years, to allow passage of sockeye bound for both PSC systems and Alaska systems that the gillnet fleet is managed for.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

(HQ-F20-122)

PROPOSAL 276

5 AAC XX.XXX New Section.

Allow for the retention of salmon during periods of commercial nonretention when the sport fishery in the area is open for that species, as follows:

The new regulation would require the adoption of all points made in #2 below. There may be others, I am not a lawyer. I just want to eat a fresh salmon on my commercial fishing vessel. The technology of today allows us to provide this to one of the oldest industries in Alaska. All that is needed is willingness!

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 1) allow one or a portion there of a (one) fin fish to be aboard a commercial fishing vessel for immediate consumption. This would be in areas that are currently open to sport fishing, for the finfish retained.

2) to achieve this, it would require:

A) A cell phone app would need to be developed and use to make a landing. This should alienate any problems with enforcement.

B) A valid sport license

C) the finfish to be processed for consumption. (H&G minimum)

3) if adopted this would prevent a large portion of the commercial fleet from becoming criminals. It would also have the benefit of better data collection. Therefore, the ability to achieve Alaska’s goal of maximizing sustainable yield, would have a higher percentage of achievement.

4) It is gross unfairness that the producers of the highest quality seafood, in the world, can’t legally participate in its consumption, in a timely manner. “the fresher the better”

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Piercy

(EF-F20-053)
