

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 06.331 Gillnet specifications and operations.

Limit the length of drift gillnet tows to 100 feet, as follows:

Limit tow line to 100 feet from tow point to beginning of the net. This is more than sufficient for big weather days and to allow you to maneuver if something goes wrong. Easy for Troopers to enforce and measure, it's roughly 3 boat lengths.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? No limit on tow lines. The fishery has changed greatly in the last 5 years. Large influx of shallow drafted boats have entered the fishery, along with this we have seen more and more boats going really shallow and setting their net and running out to deeper water with tow lines up to a 1/4 of a mile long, as the tide falls they pull their nets and fish out of the shallows. The long tow lines preempt grounds and are dangerous. Dragging the fish out of the shallows also has a very negative impact on fish quality. Finally its not drift fishing and is Illegal.

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