

PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 77.171. Lawful gear for personal use finfish fishing.

Modify Yukon Area Personal Use Salmon Fishery specifications for selective gear types and gillnet mesh size during times of salmon conservation, as follows:

5 AAC 77.171 is amended to read:

...

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines it to be necessary for the conservation of [CHUM] salmon, **other than king salmon**, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Yukon Area Subdistrict 6-C personal use salmon fishing season and immediately reopen the season during which the following gear limitations apply:

(1) a gillnet used to take salmon

(A) must be four_ inches or less [IN] mesh [SIZE] or **seven and one-half inch** [EIGHT INCHES OR GREATER] in mesh size;

(B) that is four inches or less in mesh size, may not exceed the length and depth specified by the commissioner; and **the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet; no part of a set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;**

(C) that is **seven and one-half inch** [EIGHT INCHES OR GREATER] in mesh size, may not exceed the length and depth specified by the commissioner; **and the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet; no part of a set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;**

(2) for fish wheels:

(A) the operator must closely attend the fish wheel while it is in operation, and all [CHUM] salmon, **other than king salmon**, must be immediately released to the water alive and must bypass any livebox, unless retention is allowed by emergency order;

(B) repealed 6/28/2019;

(C) repealed 6/28/2019;

(3) dip nets may be used, however all [CHUM] salmon, **other than king salmon**, caught must be released to the water alive, **unless retention is allowed by emergency order;** notwithstanding (a)(3) of this section, a person may operate a dip net within 200 feet of another person operating a dip net.

(c) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines it to be necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order,

close the Yukon Area Subdistrict 6-C personal use salmon fishing season and immediately reopen the season during which the following gear limitations apply:

(1) a gillnet used to take salmon

(A) must be six inches or less in mesh size; **and the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet; no part of a set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;**

(B) may not exceed the length and depth specified by the commissioner;

(C) that is four inches or less in mesh size, may not exceed the length and depth specified by the commissioner; and the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet; no part of a set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

(2) for fish wheels:

(A) the operator must closely attend the fish wheel while it is in operation, and all king salmon must be immediately released to the water alive and must bypass any livebox, unless retention is allowed by emergency order;

(B) repealed 6/28/2019;

(C) repealed 6/28/2019;

(3) dip nets may be used, however all king salmon caught must be released to the water alive; notwithstanding (a)(3) of this section, a person may operate a dip net within 200 feet of another person operating a dip net.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Yukon Area currently has several management options available for the protection of king or chum salmon, while still being able to provide harvest opportunity on more abundant salmon species that have overlapping run timings. The department needs greater flexibility to be able to provide harvest opportunity in the personal use fishery on abundant salmon species while providing protections to less abundant salmon species. This proposal would establish alternative options and aligned gears during times of salmon conservation and allow the department to specify which species may be retained from selective gear types. This will allow for a more adaptive management strategy benefitting participants in the personal use fishery. Additionally, this proposal removes the option for gillnets with eight-inch or greater mesh and amends the maximum mesh size to seven and one-half or inch less mesh size.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F22-063)
