

**Yukon Commercial Fisheries (3 proposals)**

**PROPOSAL 87**

**5 AAC 39.105. Types of legal gear.**

Define eel stick, as follows *(To be heard at the Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim meeting and deliberated during the Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues meeting):*

5 AAC 39.105(d) is amended to read:

...

(30) a cast net is a circular net with a mesh size of no more than one and one-half inches and weights attached to the perimeter which, when thrown, surrounds the fish and closes at the bottom when retrieved;[.]

**(31) an eel stick consists of a single straight or bent pole, equipped with notches or projecting tines, used through the ice to take lamprey.**

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This would add eel sticks as a legal gear for commercial and subsistence fishing. An additional department proposal was submitted to add this as a legal gear type for subsistence fishing. The commercial fishery for Arctic lamprey (eels) operates under a commissioner's permit that allows commercial permit holders to use dip nets and eel sticks; however the eel stick is not included in regulations. Statewide provisions (5 AAC 01.010 (1)) for subsistence gear would refer to and include this addition. Eel sticks are traditionally used in Districts 2, 3 and 4 for harvesting Arctic lamprey for commercial and subsistence purposes through the ice. Eel sticks are described in Subsistence Division Technical Paper No. 289 (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/tp289.pdf>)

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-059)  
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**PROPOSAL 88**

**5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Repeal and replace Yukon Area commercial salmon fishing gear specifications, as follows:

5 AAC 05.331 is amended to read:

**(a) Set gillnet gear may not exceed 150 fathoms in aggregate length;**

**(b) Drift gillnet gear may not exceed 50 fathoms in length;**

**(c) Salmon may be taken only with gillnets of six-inch or smaller mesh during periods established by emergency order.**

**(d) No gillnet gear may be operated in a manner to obstruct more than one-half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone, this restriction applies at all stages of the tide.**

**(e) In Districts 1 - 3, gillnets with**

**(1) greater than six-inch mesh may not be more than 45 meshes in depth;**

**(2) six-inch or smaller mesh may not be more than 50 meshes in depth.**

**(f) In Districts 4 - 6, gillnets with**

**(1) greater than six-inch mesh may not be more than 60 meshes in depth;**

**(2) six-inch or smaller mesh may not be more than 70 meshes in depth.**

**(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, during times when the commissioner determines it to be necessary for the conservation of a salmon species, the commissioner, by emergency order, may close the fishing season in Districts 1 - 6 and immediately reopen the season during which a person may take salmon with a gillnet that has a mesh size of seven and one-half inches.**

**(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in Districts 1 - 3, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season and immediately reopen the season during which a person may take salmon only with a gillnet that has a mesh size of five and one-half inches or less and that is not more than 30 meshes in depth.**

**(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section and in provisions 5 AAC 01.249 and 5 AAC 05.359-5 AAC 05.369, during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of a salmon species, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season and immediately reopen the season specifying the area in which one or more of the following gears may be allowed;**

**(1) all salmon species caught by the gear types specified by the commissioner must be released to the water alive unless retention is allowed by the emergency order;**

**(A) for fish wheels (5 AAC 05.333): the operator must closely attend the fish wheel while it is in operation, and all salmon species specified for release must bypass any livebox;**

**(B) dip nets may be used as described in 5AAC 05.362(k)(1)(A);**

**(C) a beach seine may be used as described in 5AAC 05.362(k)(1)(B).**

[(a) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE  
(1) SET GILLNET GEAR THAT EXCEEDS 150 FATHOMS IN AGGREGATE LENGTH;  
(2) DRIFT GILLNET GEAR THAT EXCEEDS 50 FATHOMS IN LENGTH.

(b) IN DISTRICTS 1 AND 2, SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY WITH GILLNETS OF SIX-INCH OR SMALLER MESH DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER.

(c) IN DISTRICT 3, SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY WITH GILLNETS OF SIX-INCH OR SMALLER MESH DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER.

(d) IN DISTRICTS 4 AND 6, SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY WITH GILLNETS OF SIX-INCH OR SMALLER MESH DURING PERIODS ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER.

(e) NO GILLNET GEAR MAY BE OPERATED IN A MANNER TO OBSTRUCT MORE THAN ONE-HALF THE WIDTH OF ANY WATERWAY. IN THE INTERTIDAL ZONE, THIS RESTRICTION APPLIES AT ALL STAGES OF THE TIDE.

(f) IN DISTRICTS 4 - 6, GILLNETS WITH

(1) GREATER THAN SIX-INCH MESH MAY NOT BE MORE THAN 60 MESHES IN DEPTH;

(2) SIX-INCH OR SMALLER MESH MAY NOT BE MORE THAN 70 MESHES IN DEPTH.

(g) IN DISTRICTS 1 - 3, GILLNETS WITH

(1) GREATER THAN SIX-INCH MESH MAY NOT BE MORE THAN 45 MESHES IN DEPTH;

(2) SIX-INCH OR SMALLER MESH MAY NOT BE MORE THAN 50 MESHES IN DEPTH.

(h) NOTWITHSTANDING (b) - (d) OF THIS SECTION, DURING TIMES WHEN THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES IT TO BE NECESSARY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CHUM SALMON, THE COMMISSIONER, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, MAY CLOSE THE FISHING SEASON IN DISTRICTS 1 - 6 AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON DURING WHICH A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE SALMON WITH A GILLNET THAT HAS A MESH SIZE OF LESS THAN EIGHT INCHES.

(i) IN THE YUKON AREA, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION THAT ALLOWS A PERSON TO TAKE SALMON WITH A GILLNET THAT HAS A MESH SIZE GREATER THAN SEVEN AND ONE-HALF INCHES, A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE SALMON WITH A GILLNET THAT HAS A MESH SIZE GREATER THAN SEVEN AND ONE-HALF INCHES.

(j) NOTWITHSTANDING THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, IN DISTRICTS 1 - 3, DURING TIMES WHEN THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF KING SALMON, THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, CLOSE THE FISHING SEASON AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON DURING WHICH A PERSON MAY TAKE SALMON ONLY WITH A GILLNET THAT HAS A MESH SIZE OF FIVE AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LESS AND THAT IS NOT MORE THAN 30 MESHES IN DEPTH. ]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current commercial gillnet specifications and operation requirements in the Yukon Area contain inconsistencies and do not provide for selective gear options that allows for the harvest or live release of all salmon species. These changes include aligning District 5 with all other Yukon districts to include a maximum mesh size of six-inch gillnets and removes outdated instances of eight-inch or larger mesh gillnets

in the Yukon Area. Additionally, selective gear used during times of conservation of salmon species is stated in the individual salmon management plans for chum and king salmon; however, the department would like the ability to use these live-release gears for all salmon species to harvest abundant salmon species that have overlapping run timings. Stating conservation gear regulations in this commercial section simplifies the regulations and will allow for a more adaptive management strategy benefitting commercial users.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-060)  
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**PROPOSAL 89**

**5 AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan.**

Modify Yukon Area commercial dip net gear operations in the commercial fishery to include a single rigid handle with a single line attached, as follows:

5 AAC 05.362.(k)(1)(A) is amended to read:

...

(A) up to four dip nets; notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.105(d)(24), for the purposes of this subparagraph, a dip net is a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame in which no portion of the bag is constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of four and one-half inches and the frame is attached to a single rigid handle **or a single rigid handle with a single line attached** and **be** operated by hand; the depth of the bag must be at least one-half of the greatest straight-line distance, as measured through the net opening; for a dip net with

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal would specify that dip nets must be operated by a handle, and that a single line may be attached to the handle. The current definition of dip net operation does not reflect the practice of attaching a single line to a dip net handle. This method of dip net operation has created confusion and difficulty for enforcement personnel. Clarifying dip net operation would provide enforcement and local fishers with a clear definition of gear type operation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-061)  
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