

**PROPOSAL 107**

**5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.**

Repeal the 600-foot Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery and create a new opportunity with shallow set gillnet gear more than one half mile offshore as follows:

(F) Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishing periods that are limited under this section may be limited to fishing [WITHIN 600 FEET OF THE MEAN HIGH TIDE MARK AND ARE EXEMPT FROM HOUR AND GEAR LIMITATIONS IDENTIFIED UNDER (E)(3)(A) - (E) OF THIS SECTION;]

be removed and replaced with

(F) Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial fishing periods that are limited under this section may be limited to fishing **outside 1/2 mile of the mean high tide mark and be limited to 29 mesh nets.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The creation of the 600 ft. fishery in theory was to reduce Chinook Salmon catches in the east side set gillnet fisheries. It is our contention that there is an increased chance in Chinook Salmon harvest in most areas of the east side set gillnet fishery that the 600 ft fishery occupies. We believe that if nets were set 1/2 mile outside mean high tide, it would reduce the impact of the eastside set gillnet fishery on Chinook Salmon in times of low abundance, especially with the use of 29 mesh nets, this would allow the Chinook to pass below in most areas. We believe that even 29 mesh nets reach the bottom in most areas that the 600 ft fishery occupies, thus negating the savings provided with the implementation of the 29 mesh net option. So we prefer the that in times of low abundance that the department have the option to create a buffer by moving the nets off the beach. 1/2 mile from the mean high tide line.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Professional Guide Association (EF-F23-059)

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