

Fishing Seasons, Weekly Periods, Setnet Gear, and Registration (17 proposals)

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 21.310 Fishing Seasons.

Provide additional commercial salmon fishing opportunity with set gillnet gear in the Upper Subdistrict as follows:

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons (C) (ii)

...; when **any portion of** the Kasilof Section is open to commercial fishing with set gillnets and the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are closed to commercial fishing with set gillnets, commercial fishing with set gillnets **will** [MAY] be allowed within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This issue deals with fishing North Kalifonsky Beach (NKB) (244-32), within 600 ft from Mean High Tide (MHT), on or after July 1.

With a recommendation from ADF&G, in 2020, the BOF lowered the OEG in the Kasilof River from 160,000-390,000 to 140,000-370,000 sockeye. Some of the reasoning, was in 1985, 501,071 spawners produced a return of 369,740 sockeye. The system failed to replace itself.

Since the 2020 BOF meeting, the Kasilof River has exceeded its OEG, every year. In 2022 almost ONE MILLION sockeye made it past the sonar counter.

NKB is a traditional harvester of "beach orientated" Kasilof stocks. Genetics reports have verified this over the years. A genetics report on sockeye, for the NKB 600 ft fishery, 7/13 & 7/21, 2019 showed the Kasilof River stock composition to be 59.5%.

In comparison, the Kasilof Section half-mile fishery for 7/13 & 7/21, 2019 the Kasilof stock composition was 27.3%.

Earlier in July, before the Kenai River sockeye show up on NKB, data and common sense would indicate that the Kasilof River sockeye component would be even higher on NKB.

According to Area Management Reports, 2020 & 2021, and conversations with ADF&G for 2022, for those three years, fishing NKB 600 ft, there were 32,474 sockeye harvested and 10 kings. A ratio of 3247/1 sockeye per king. Fishing 29 mesh deep nets, with 4 3/4 in gear, until the entire Kenai Section opens, is definitely a beneficial tool to harvest sockeye, while reducing king catches.

In 2022 NKB 600 ft fishery fished one day, on July 7. The entire Kasilof Section fished July 2, 4, and 7, prior to opening the Kenai Section. With ADF&G predicting 16,004 large King salmon to the Kenai River, closures to the ESSN fishery, were pretty much guaranteed. With restrictions/closures to the ESSN fishery, in-river goals to the Kenai and Kasilof rivers were grossly exceeded. NKB 600 ft should have fished on July 2 & 4.

It seems that ADF&G, over the past few years has been asking for " guidance" or "clear intent" of the Board of Fish thoughts and positions on various regulations.

At the March 2019 BOF Statewide meeting, "clear intent" was given by a BOF Member as to when the NKB 600 ft fishery should be used. In passing a portion of 5 AAC 21.310. (C) (ii), on the record, he stated his position was when "any portion of the Kasilof Section is fishing to help control escapement into the Kasilof, the Northern K Beach setters within 600 ft WOULD be fishing". There was no opposing discussion to his statement. This proposal passed the BOF 6-1. The proposal, in 2019, as written was a, " may be allowed", even thou INTENT was given by the BOF to ADF&G to fish NKB 600 ft fishery, when any portion of the Kasilof Section was fishing.

The proposal I am submitting, would change the (may) be allowed to a WILL be allowed. This would give ADF&G guidance, but more importantly help stop exceeding BOF mandated sockeye goals to the Kasilof River.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Hollier (EF-F23-017)

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.

Increase Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial salmon fishing opportunity as follows:

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.

...

(ii) Kenai and East Foreland Sections: from July 8 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only; from July 1 through August 15, when the Kasilof Section is open to commercial fishing with set gillnets and the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are closed to commercial fishing with set gillnets, commercial fishing with set gillnets [MAY] **shall** be allowed within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat., and is not subject to the time limitations in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3) and 5 AAC 21.360; from [JULY 1] **June 20** until the Kenai and East Foreland Sections commercial salmon set gillnet fishery open for the regular season, set gillnet gear may not exceed 29 meshes in depth and may not have a mesh size greater than four and three quarter inches during all fishing periods that are restricted to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kasilof River continues to exceed the top end of its goal when the ESSN fishery is closed due to chinook conversation. There is an opportunity for a small section of the ESSN to harvest Kasilof bound sockeye early in the season.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Norman (EF-F23-118)

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 21.310. Fishing Seasons.

Lengthen Upper Subdistrict set gillnet commercial salmon fishing season as follows:

(ii) Kenai and East Foreland Sections: from July 8 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; from [AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 15] **August 6 through August 31**, the fishery is open for regular periods only...

(iii) Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections: in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, and separately in the Kasilof Section, the season will close [AUGUST 15] **August 31**, unless closed earlier by emergency order....

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Run timings for sockeye continue to trend later in the season. We see large pulses of sockeye occurring later in the year. There is also a significant lost opportunity to harvest pink salmon after 15 August. The end of the season should be framed by criteria rather than a date. The 1% rule and the harvest cap of coho salmon. If neither of the criteria are met, then the fishing season should continue since salmon don't have a calendar.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Norman (EF-F23-120)

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 21.320 Weekly fishing periods.

Modify Northern District weekly commercial fishing periods as follows:

Salmon may be taken in the northern district **from June 25 through July 19, weekly fishing periods will be from 7 am to 7 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after July 19 salmon may be taken 7:00 AM Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 am Thursday until 7:00pm Thursday.**

[7:00 AM MONDAY UNTIL 7:00 P.M. MONDAY AND FROM 7:00 AM THURSDAY UNTIL 7:00PM THURSDAY]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Proposing to fish Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12-hour fishing periods for the Northern District is to help target some of the sockeye salmon before gear restriction start July 20, with one extra day and an extra 12-hours per week. The present regulation is a hit or miss due to extreme weather conditions and safety concerns because this area has unique SE (Turnagain) winds. For example, in the 2022 fishing season we missed 2 fishing openers in this time frame because of weather, this is a common occurrence from this area. This proposal will grant a reasonable opportunity to harvest a specific commercial stock (sockeye) and help us, as well as our neighboring communities economically. With scows and flake ice in place an additional period is not a problem with tenders from Kenai.

PROPOSED BY: Tyonek Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F23-033)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods

Provide additional commercial salmon fishing opportunity in Upper Cook Inlet based on salmon escapement as follows:

Commercial fishing will be allowed by all gear types and in all areas of Upper Cook Inlet and with the full use of their respective legal compliment of gear on Mondays from 7am to 7pm, Wednesdays 7am to 7pm, and Fridays 7am to 7pm. In order to keep escapement levels within the MSY escapement goals for the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, fishing periods will be adjusted by E.O. in the following manner: Projected final escapements will be calculated on a daily basis, as they have been in recent years, and those numbers will determine whether regular fishing periods will be restricted or if extra time will be allowed. If projected final escapements stray either way from the MSY escapement range, then fishing time will be adjusted accordingly. Actual escapement numbers will dictate fishing time rather than mandatory closures.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In order to meet the Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY) principle required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and to achieve the MSY escapement goals of 600,000-800,000 sockeye for the Kenai River and 150,000-250,000 sockeye for the Kasilof River, regulations need to be changed to allow fishing time and area which are needed to achieve these goals.

PROPOSED BY: Teague Vanek

(EF-F23-072)

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods, 5 AAC 21.359. Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Management Plan.

Modify weekly fishing periods in the Upper Subdistrict and adopt new ‘paired restrictive’ management measures as follows:

As Currently in the Regulation Book

5 AAC 21.320

Weekly Fishing Periods

(C) Upper Subdistrict:

(i) Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August 15, unless closed

by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; however, if the department estimate

that 30,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 1 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

(ii) Kenai and East Foreland Sections: from July 8 through August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order under (iii) of this subparagraph; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only; from July 1 through August 15, when the Kasilof Section is open to commercial fishing with set gillnets and the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are closed to commercial fishing with set gillnets, commercial fishing with set gillnets may be allowed within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat., and is not subject to the time limitations in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3) and 5 AAC 21.360; from July 1 until the Kenai and East Foreland Sections commercial salmon set gillnet fishery open for the regular season, set gillnet gear may not exceed 29 meshes in depth and may not have a mesh size greater than four and three quarter inches during all fishing periods that are restricted to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;

(iii) Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections: in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, and separately in the Kasilof Section, the season will close August 15, unless closed earlier by emergency order after July 31, if the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the combined Kenai and East Forelands Sections, or separately in the Kasilof Section; from August 11 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular fishing periods only; for purposes of this sub- subparagraph, "fishing period" means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.;

New Proposal:

(C) Upper Subdistrict:

(i) Kasilof Section: from June 25 through August 15;

7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday; (more days and time can be added if warranted) (if the commissioner or the department deems necessary to restrict time or close the east side set net fishery, for any reason, equal percentage time restrictions must be administered to all other user groups); however, if the department estimates that 30,000 sockeye salmon are in the Kasilof River before June 25, but on or after June 20, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open the fishery; from August 1 through August 15, the fishery is open for regular periods only;

(ii) Kenai and East Foreland Sections: from June 25 through August 15, 7:00 a.m. Monday until 7:00 p.m. Monday and from 7:00 a.m. Thursday until 7:00 p.m. Thursday; (more days and time can be added if warranted) (if the commissioner or the department deems necessary to restrict time or close the east side set net fishery, for any reason, equal percentage time restrictions must be administered to all other user groups); from July 1 through August 15, when the Kasilof Section

is open to commercial fishing with set gill nets and the Kenai and East Forelands Sections are closed to commercial fishing with set gill nets, commercial fishing with set gill nets may be allowed within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark in that portion of the Kenai Section north of the latitude of the Blanchard Line at 60° 27.10' N. lat., and south of the latitude of the ADF&G regulatory marker located south of the Kenai River mouth at 60° 30.49' N. lat., and is not subject to the time limitations in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3) and 5 AAC 21.360; from July 1 until the Kenai and East Foreland Sections commercial salmon set gillnet fishery open for the regular season, set gillnet gear may not exceed 29 meshes in depth and may not have a mesh size greater than four and three quarter inches during all fishing periods that are restricted to within 600 feet of the mean high tide mark;

This means that on Monday and Thursday 12 hour openings will be fished by the ESSN fishery in some form or fashion. (with full too minimum gear).

ESSN fishery (Kasilof, Kenai and East Foreland Sections) will be allowed to set gill net for salmon Monday and Thursday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm from June 25th to August 15th. These 2-12 hour fishing periods per week cannot be reduced in time without taking an equal percentage of time from all user groups.

Set net, drift net, dip net, inriver sport will all be affected.

For example;

If the commissioner takes a Monday or a Thursday away from ESSN (closed by emergency order);

This is taking 50% of the ESSN opportunity.

The commissioner shall restrict 50% of the time from all other user groups.

If the commissioner must close ESSN for the season, for any management or plan reason all user groups close for the season.

set net, drift net, dip net, inriver sport

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose of this proposal is for the ESSN's.(Commercial East Side Set Net) to have an opportunity to harvest salmon, with full too minimum gear (as written in the management plans), throughout the entire prescribed season.

5 AAC 21.360. Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan

The department shall manage the Kenai River late-run sockeye salmon stocks primarily for commercial uses based on abundance.

The last few years, this has not been happening due to the many nuances of the different management plans.

In the year, 2023 the ESSN’s opportunity to harvest throughout the season as prescribed evolved to a full season closure.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Every (EF-F23-108)

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 21.320. Weekly fishing periods.

Modify weekly fishing periods as follows:

Delete from all management plans that restrict commercial fishing on two regular, Inlet wide, 12 hour fishing periods per week.

Establish in all management plans that the commercial fisheries will fish on two regular, Inlet wide, 12 hour fishing periods per week. If salmon abundance warrants additional Inlet wide fishing periods per week will be implemented.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The commercial fishery is the only indicator and calibration of the test boat of the run strength and salmon species on a real time bases. Without regular 12 hour, inlet wide, fishing periods the Department is basically managing blind as to the salmon species abundance, migration pattern and timing. The fishery has data from decades of management without regular inlet wide periods and the results have always been consistent gross over-escapements of all species and the lost harvest of millions of surplus salmon that is disastrous to the commercial fishing industry, the salmon resource and communities. In comparison the fishery has data from decades of management with regular inlet wide periods and the results were scientific escapement goals being met and sustainable harvest was maintaining a viable commercial fishery while providing ample sports fishing opportunity and harvest. Not fishing two inlet wide fishing periods per week, or more based on abundance, has resulted in tens of millions of harvestable salmon going un-harvested that negatively affects the commercial fishing industry, communities, National food source, interstate commerce, economies and also decreases future salmon production resulting from the effects of over escapement. It also violates the Magnuson Stevens Act and other applicable laws. The sports fishery has a reasonable opportunity to fish and reasonable numbers of salmon to harvest. In comparison the commercial fisherman, when restricted or closed down, has no other area to fish because they are restricted to the areas and their gear type by their limited entry permit they own. This is unfair and has no parity in reasonable opportunity between commercial and recreational fisheries under the current management plans. Because of overly restricted commercial fishing management plans only around half of the CFEC permit holders are currently participating in the Cook Inlet fishery, thereby reducing their harvest potential by half.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-038)

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Close the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict to commercial fishing for salmon as follows:

Close the Chinitna Bay subdistrict in Upper Cook Inlet to commercial fishing for chum and coho salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The numbers of chums and coho's returning to the streams in Chinitna bay have drastically decreased over the past decade. the fishery needs to be closed until stocks rebound.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (EF-F23-096)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Increase waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon as follows:

Commercial drifters must stay a minimum distance of 1 mile from the mouths of silver salmon Creek and shelter creek on cook inlets west side.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently drifters can fish as close as 1/4 mile from the mouth of silver salmon creek, and shelter creek, blocking fish from entering these streams and may over harvest from an individual stream. In 2022 silver salmon creek had very few coho salmon enter the system. Another issue is brown bears have become habituated to taking salmon from nets, bears also guard and defend the areas around the nets.

PROPOSED BY: Mel Erickson (EF-F23-104)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 21.350. Closed waters.

Increase waters closed to commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet as follows:

Closed Waters:

(c) Northern District

(1) within one statute mile of the terminus of the following salmon streams:

(A) Swanson Creek

(B) Bishop Creek

(C) Three-mile Creek

(D) Chuit River

(E) Nikolai Creek

(F) McArthur River

(G) Susitna River

(H) Little Susitna River

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Upper Cook Inlet most significant salmon streams with established salmon spawning escapement goals have 1-mile radius or larger commercial fishing closed water areas near the drainage terminus at saltwater. This provides a protected zone where salmon may be bunching up as they explore the freshwater / saltwater mixing zone or make the osmoregulatory change from the saltwater to freshwater environment. Avoiding excessive harvests near stream mouth terminus areas is a strategy that may allow all user groups to fish throughout an entire season (and sometimes for multiple species) uninterrupted by inseason restrictions or closures.

In Upper Cook Inlet’s Northern District (the end of the harvest gauntlet) two significant salmon stream terminus areas lack these standard 1-mile radius commercial closure areas. Susitna River drainage and Little Susitna River each support populations of 5 species of salmon. Each river has a long history of emergency inseason restrictions to both saltwater and freshwater user groups in efforts to attain different salmon escapement goals. Even with emergency restrictions and closures each river also has a history of failing to attain salmon spawning escapement goals. Therefore, consistent with the purpose of the Northern District Salmon Management Plan, we request the board add Susitna River and Little Susitna River to the regulatory list of Northern District salmon streams with one statutory mile commercial closed waters from their terminus. **Note:** Both Susitna River and Little Susitna River support much higher levels of inriver users than all other streams on the current Northern District list.

At the Susitna River terminus we are unaware of current commercial fishing — providing an opportune time to make this change. There are currently registered setnet sites within one mile of the Little Susitna River terminus.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (EF-F23-133)

PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 21.335. Minimum distance between units of gear; 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow use of a seine lead in the set gillnet fishery and define minimum distance between gear as follows:

In considering a minimum distance between gear 5 AAC 21.335(d) no part of a seine may be operated within 300 feet of a set gillnet. And considering the Lead’s unknown effects upon salmon behavior, this Experiment to Be:

Allow for the use of a 105 Fathom Seine Lead in the set net fishery, within 300 feet of a set gillnet, wherever fishermen within 1200 feet on either side have given approval.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for the implementation of a 105 Fathom Fixed Seine Lead

Whenever possible, experimentation that may lead to new results should be encouraged in my opinion. The Board Process seems like a decent route to be sure stakeholders have a say in how new gear implementation may affect their fishing opportunity.

This particular Seine/Lead in this configuration would be used to explore what if any behavioral differences may exist amongst the various species of salmon upon interaction with the Lead. Larger schools of salmon MAY gather up against and flow around a Lead, returning more quickly to a near-shore travel, whereas larger individual fish or smaller groups MAY react by escaping into deeper water for a lengthier period of time. Interaction with a Lead MAY also heighten a salmon's future response to a gillnet. This could be especially important if the interaction occurred on an ebbing tide, when the fish may have been tailing against the current and been pushed into the net, leaving it ill-prepared to mount an escape.

It is anticipated that when dealing with so few openers a year, commercial operators are unlikely to be enthusiastic about the cost associated with building such a net, which could as easily direct fish of all species away from their gillnets, while only exploring a vague notion of fish behavior and some conservation of chinook, which are already reported as being caught infrequently at many beach locations.

For this reason, Fish and Game Managers themselves may wish to build such a Lead and place it within the Kasilof PU gillnet fishery to begin to evaluate any effects, thus perhaps providing the Department confidence to allow additional fishing opportunity within that fishery, which has seen limited fishing hours due to poor king returns.

A fixed Lead could perhaps also be positioned off-shore to divert salmon in closer to shore based PU fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Nathan Hoff (HQ-F23-088)

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 21.330. Gear.

Allow use of reef nets in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery as follows:

(d) Reef nets may be used in the following areas

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To offer an alternative gear for setnet fishermen when they are closed for Kenai River King Salmon OEG escapement goals. Establish areas in river or in special areas to harvest abundant sockeye bound for the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Shadura II

(EF-F23-169)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 21.330. Gear.

Allow use of reef nets in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery as follows:

Write a new regulation that would allow setnet permit holders to use a Reef net in lieu of the Cook Inlet setnet permit in times where they are restricted in using their traditional gear. A permit holder must be on site when the Reef net is in operation. Up to 5 permit holders may operate a licensed Reef net float and net operation. Reef net operators must register their floating equipment with the ADF&G.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recent article from the Bellingham, Washington area have shown the success of Reef net fishing in selective harvests of salmon. This may be used in selective or riverine areas of the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers to harvest abundant sockeye stocks when setnet fisheries are shut down on the ESSN to attain an OEG on Kenai bound King salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Shadura II

(EF-F23-170)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Restrict set gillnet gear in the Upper Subdistrict as follows:

Direct or incentivize use of 29” rather than 45” gillnets in the east side set net fishery even when not operating under paired restrictions with the following addition under *5 AAC 21.331 Gillnet Specifications and operations*:

(d) A set gillnet may not be more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. South of the latitude of Anchor Point, 30 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on shore between high and low water levels. A person may not operate more than four set gillnets with more than 105 fathoms of set gillnet in aggregate, except that

(2) In the Upper Subdistrict, a CFEC permit holder shall be restricted to up to four set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length, 105 fathoms in aggregate length and 29 meshes in depth, or two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. [REPEALED 6/11/2005.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations do not provide adequate protection for harvest of Kenai late-run king salmon in the east side set gillnet fishery in the event that numbers recover enough to get out of paired restrictions. We are currently in an extended period of low king productivity and are likely to continue to be challenged by low abundance even if we are not under paired restrictions. Without additional management tools, more-normal management is likely to fish us back into paired restrictions in the course of a season under reduced king

Paired restrictions are identified in the Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan as a conservation measure during periods of low abundance. The plan incentivizes use of shallow nets as a conservation measure during periods of low king abundance. The regulation allows for 4 nets if 29” but only 2 nets if 45” (or 2 @ 29” vs. 1 at 45”). However, current regulations do not allow for ADF&G to limit set gillnets to shorter depths during normal fisheries when paired restrictions are not in effect and the fishery is governed by the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Under normal circumstances a set gillnet in the Central District commercial fishery may be up to 45 meshes in depth.

Use of shallow nets needs to be extended under normal circumstances when paired restrictions are not in effect. Use of shallow set gillnets will increase the opportunity of the commercial setnet fishery to harvest abundant sockeye while reducing harvest of king salmon. Shallow nets are more selective for harvest of sockeye than kings because kings often travel deeper in the water column.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F23-080)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 21.363. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan .

Establish new commercial fishery reporting requirements in Upper Cook Inlet as follows:

To require jack king salmon to be reported on commercial salmon fish tickets. Other solutions would extend this to all subsistence and sports reporting in Cook Inlet.

5AAC. Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan

(7) King Salmon reporting requirements.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game general salmon tickets must record King Salmon as follows. Kings over 20 inches will be reported under code 410. Jack Kings under 20 inches will be reported under code 415 in the box below 410

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Accurate king salmon reporting is important for managers, the public, and harvesters to understand the true nature of the harvest. Commercial counts simply report kings under code 10 on the General Salmon Ticket. If an area reports 1,500 kings in a season it is a count of jacks and kings.

Good decisions come from good information, so a requirement to report jack kings in the box below kings with a code 415 would help in understanding the nature of the run. Cook Inlet gill nets are restricted to six inch mesh to aid in the release of large kings. Jacks are frequently caught in the same nets, but the data does not reflect this fact.

This proposal if passed would be helpful for processors who pay much less for jacks. The box is already available and would not change fish tickets statewide. If nothing is changed a kings size will be an unknown in Cook Inlet data.

If nothing is changed a king’s size will be an unknown in Cook Inlet data.

PROPOSED BY: Tyonek Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F23-035)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 21.345 Registration.

Allow Upper Cook Inlet set gillnet permit holders to fish in more than one registration area per year as follows:

I'd like to be able to register in UCI Set Net and also for a different area.

(a) A **UCI** CFEC set gillnet permit holder [MAY NOT] **may** fish in more than one registration area during a registration year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As the ESSN continues to experience year after year of shutdowns for king salmon abundance it makes it increasingly difficult to make a living. Kenai is my home and I love to fish here with my family. Unfortunately, I am not able to count on income from being an eastside setnetter.

Guides can take people fishing for sockeye on the Kenai or can go to Seward for Coho or Niniichik for Halibut. I am stuck with no alternative based on the registration rule. I made the sacrifice to purchase a permit for a different area, but I must gamble on what area has the best opportunity for me to catch fish and produce an income for my family. I'd like to see the rule amended to allow me to register and participate in multiple areas as I see fit.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Norman

(EF-F23-123)

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 40.820. Basic Management Plans.

Amend Basic Management Plans as follows (*This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting*):

Amend the *Cook Inlet Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan* to specify hatchery pink salmon production, as follows:

Reduce hatchery production to 25% of the year 2000 production as promised in 2000.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is an over-production of hatchery pink salmon that threatens wild Alaska stocks.

In 1996 Elfin Cove Advisory Committee put in a proposal to restrict hatchery production according to the original intent of rehabilitating wild salmon runs. They wanted a substantial reduction in current hatchery production. The hatchery managers complained the Board did not have the authority to set their production. After a thorough examination (approximately one year), the Attorney General ruled the Board does have the authority to regulate the number of eggs taken for production. The Board deferred the proposal and formed a hatchery committee to gather

information. This committee was comprised of Board members Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour and Grant Miller. It took three years, a full Board cycle, with meetings in every region of the state, to complete the report.

The proposal was scheduled for the January- February 2000, a super meeting of Bristol Bay, AYK and Area M. The hatchery management met with the Governor and proffered that if the Board would not take up the proposal they would reduce their production by 25%. The Board meeting lasted 26 days, 10-16 hours a day, accepting the promise from the hatchery managers in the interest of time.

The marine productivity is currently in a very low cycle. The wild salmon are starving, many small systems are extirpated. Most of AYK/ Cook Inlet stocks are not meeting escapement goals and have very little or no harvest of Chinook, chum and coho salmon.

The purpose of this proposal is strictly conservation, to hold the hatcheries to their 2000 promise. The Board should require a substantial reduction in production so the wild fish don't have to compete, as noted by hundreds of science papers, with hatchery fish for food.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F23-151)
