

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 24.333. Requirements and specifications for for use of 250 fathoms of purse seine gear in Area E.

Allow permit stacking by Prince William Sound commercial salmon purse seine permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 24.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 250 fathoms of purse seine gear in Area E. (a) Two Area E purse seine CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 250 fathoms in the aggregate of seine and lead, **and a person holding two Area E purse seine CFEC permits may operate up to 250 fathoms of seine and lead**, under this section, except that, in times of conservation, purse seine gear may be restricted by emergency order to an aggregate length of 225 fathoms of seine and lead. (b) When two Area E purse seine CFEC permit holders (**or one permit holder with two Area E purse seine CFEC permits**) fish from the same vessel and jointly operate purse seine gear under this section, the vessel must display its ADF&G permanent license plate number followed by the letter "D" to identify the vessel as a dual permit vessel. The letter "D" must be removed or covered when the vessel is operating with only one purse seine CFEC permit holder on board the vessel. The identification number and letters must be displayed (1) in letters and numerals 12 inches high with lines at least one inch wide;(2) in a color that contrasts with the background; (3) on both sides of the hull; and (4) in a manner that is plainly visible at all times when the vessel is being operated. (c) When two permit holders jointly operate gear under this section, each permit holder is responsible for ensuring that the entire unit of gear is operated in a lawful manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the last board cycle, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a regulation change to allow two permit holders to operate 250 fathoms of aggregate seine length on one vessel. I propose allowing a single permit holder, holding two S01E Seine permits to operate the same 250 fathoms of aggregate length similar to what was recently passed by the BOF for Cook Inlet drift gillnet fisheries. Current CFEC regulations already allow an individual to hold two S01E permits, but current regulations preclude that same permit holder from operating both.

I believe this proposal will help address the issue of congestion that the last "stacking" proposal attempted to address. While it helped, I believe there is plenty of room for continued improvement in alleviating congestion in the PWS seine fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This has been widely discussed amongst other members of the PWS purse seine fishery.

PROPOSED BY: James Burton

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