

## **COMMERCIAL SALMON (6 proposals)**

### **PROPOSAL 165**

#### **5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods.**

Change the start time of weekly drift gillnet fishing periods from Sunday to Monday.

SE gillnet weeks would start on Monday.

my understanding is....our fishery managers can set start & end times already? Encouraging them to start mornings would be beneficial.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change start day & time of SE weekly gillnet openings to Mondays between 6-8 am. (Time to be determined by fishery managers)

Why....it would reduce dramatically the conflicts with recreational boaters & sport fishermen. (Running nets over) Would also benefit permit holders to have more time with they're families & be on abit more regular schedule with work/ school schedules. ( this was done successfully with king salmon gillnet opening in the past)

Opening in the mornings, would not waste days like noon openings do. The seine fishery does this. The halibut fishery just switched to 6am from noon, for the same reason. Not wasting a day.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** This has been talk amongst permit holders for years. I think the majority of permit holders want this. I've talked extensively with the fisheries managers in my area. They have had nothing negative to say about this proposal. In fact agree that Mondays would have less conflict with recreational users.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert T. Mosher

(EF-F24-044)

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### **PROPOSAL 166**

#### **5 ACC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operation.**

Allow for drift gillnets to be up to 90 meshes deep in District 11 beginning statistical week 34.

b) In the Southeastern Alaska Area, a drift gillnet may not be more than 60 meshes in depth, except that there is no maximum depth restriction for a gillnet operated for king salmon cost recover by a private nonprofit haatchery operator or under contract to a regional aquaculture association in a special harvest area described in 5 ACC 40.081

**(1) in district 11, beginning statistical week 34, at the departments discretion, by emergnecy order, a drift gill net may not be more than 90 meshes in depth.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The United States has shown an inability to harvest their allowable catch afforded them by the Pacific Salmon Commission Treaty Annex for coho on the Taku River. The current tools only allow increased time and area, which is useful, but use of these tools has not increased catches significantly, as coho tend to travel deeper in the water column. Having deeper nets may increase stakeholders ability to harvest these valuable fish. Adoption of this proposal will give the department a valuable tool for harvesting the United States gillnet allowable catch of PSC treaty coho in times of high abundance.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (EF-F24-060)  
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**PROPOSAL 167**

**5 AAC 33.332. Seine specifications and operations.**

Increase the legal length of purse seine by 50 fathoms.

No purse seine may be less than 150 meshes or more than 450 meshes in depth, or less than 150 fathoms or more than 300 [250] fathoms in length, hung measure.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the legal length of a seine net from a legal length of no less than 150 fathoms and no more than 250 fathoms in length, hung measure, to no less than 150 fathoms and no more than 300 fathoms in length, hung measure. This would allow fishermen, if they choose, to add an additional 50 fathoms of length to their nets, increasing fishing efficiency for those vessels. We have seen a slow decline in participation of the Southeast Alaska purse seine fishery and with less nets in the water, we believe that it is justifiable to allow for the remaining fishermen to use larger nets, if they choose, to increase their personal efficiency.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** This proposal was developed by PVOA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-064)  
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**PROPOSAL 168**

**5 AAC 33.398. Use of aircraft unlawful. .**

Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period.

5 AAC 33.398 (b) during an open commercial purse seine fishing period, [FOR AN AREA OTHER THAN A TERMINAL HARVEST AREA,] a person may not use an aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial salmon fishing operations one hour before, during, and one hour after an open commercial purse seine fishing period.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Make the use of aircraft spotting/directing illegal, during all active fishing periods, in the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery. Currently, unmanned aircraft are illegal in all areas of SEAK for the use of fish spotting and manned aircraft are illegal in all areas except for hatchery THAs. This creates a loophole where a plane that was flying and legally spotting at a THA, could fly back to town to refuel or grab parts, but on the way, spot for vessels that are fishing in non-THA areas. This is currently unenforceable and allows for gray area within the regulations. The use of aircraft for spotting fish during all commercial purse seine fishing periods should not be allowed.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G

**PROPOSED BY:** Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-060)

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**PROPOSAL 169**

**5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.**

Allow use of two fishing rods used in conjunction with a down rigger or hand troll gurdy to be used during the spring and summer troll fisheries.

**The regulations should state: “An aggregated of two rods with fishing lines extending from the rods and connected to two downriggers or hand troll gurdies using a quick release devise designated to release line from the downrigger line, that maybe used spring, summer, and winter during scheduled commercial troll openings.”**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow two rods with downriggers or two hand gurdies with quick release for hand trolling.

I own a home in Yakutat and it makes no sense that this method can only be used during the winter months.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** No, I am a 70 year resident of Southeast Alaska and have commercial fished most of my life.

**PROPOSED BY:** Max Mielke (HQ-F24-053)

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**PROPOSAL 170**

**5 AAC 30.350. Closed Waters.**

Add waters closed to commercial fishing in Sudden Stream and Malaspina Lake, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350 is amended to read:

**(13) waters of Sudden Stream including all waters of Malaspina Lake upstream of a line from 59° 48.26' N. lat., 139° 59.35' W. long. to 59° 48.33' N. lat., 139° 59.24' W. long.;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, there are no closed waters in Sudden Stream to prevent commercial fishing at sockeye and coho salmon spawning grounds. Closing this area to commercial fishing will help ensure successful spawning and the sustainability of the stock.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-154)

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