

Board of Fisheries FAX 1-907 465 6094

PROPOSAL 375

I am a submitter

Sent From : Elizabeth Courtney have a site and set gillnet permit in Ugashik Village since 1979
Dennis Courtney (husband) B.B. drift permit and drift boat owner since 1976
Marshall Courtney (son) B.B. drift permit and drift boat owner 2004
We own property and a home in Ugashik Village.

We support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposal.
I do have some concerns and suggestions for the Board of Fisheries, any help given will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You
Elizabeth Courtney

Proposal 375

Problem: Remedy a navigational obstruction in the Ugashik River for set gillnet salmon fishery

There is serious safety issues with running lines, nets and buoys out in the main channel of the river where the current is stronger. Fishing Ugashik River last year was like running a maze when trying to deliver our fish. Last year a set net fisherman and his wife were in the main channel when their outboard quit, they got hung up on Briggs running line, the running lines build up pressure from the current, then they snap with great force to release, the fisherman was knocked out of the skiff, he was very lucky to get back to the skiff, this was in the daylight and good weather.

Running lines and nets in the main channel are very hazardous, when we have fog, rough weather, fishing at night and trying to deliver a load of fish to the tender. Navigation obstructions effect all, set netters, drift boats anchoring, tenders and subsistence fisheries.

Solution: There is plenty of fish for all in Ugashik River, my solution would be keep the 600ft running lines, from the 18ft high tide mark, east bank. Ugashik River is not as wide as others in Bristol Bay. app. 1800 feet across, so not more than half of the river should be blocked, half always open for navigation. There is enough things mother nature deals to us, we do not need to add man made issues to the mix.

Thank You
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