

March 19, 2014

RE: Proposal 371/RC 49

Currently 5 AAC 39.105 states "the depth of the bag must be at least one-half of the greatest straight-line distance, as measured through the net opening;"

My comment relates to how the current regulation limits me to a minimum dip net bag length and should be left as is in current regulation.

I as a limited experienced Lower Yukon Summer Chum Salmon commercial dip net fisherman can tell you that the current regulation should be inclusive of the fishery in which I fish on the Lower Yukon River District Y-1. It should not be more restrictive than what is already allowed by regulation. Should the Board of Fish act upon dip net specifications for the Commercial Summer Chum Salmon Fishery on the Lower Yukon River Districts Y-1, Y-2 and Y-3 my suggestions would be as follow:

1. Change (**bold in parenthesis**) 5 AAC 39.105 (24) to read: "a dip net is a bag-shaped net supported on all sides by a rigid frame; the maximum straight-line distance between any two points on the net frame, as measured through the net opening, may not exceed five feet (**with the exception of the Commercial Lower Yukon Summer Chum Salmon gear type which may not exceed six feet for rectangular shaped dip nets**); the depth of the bag must be at least one-half of the greatest straight-line distance, as measured through the net opening (**with the exception of the Commercial Lower Yukon Summer Chum Salmon gear type which may not exceed one and one half the greatest straight-line distance as measured through the net opening**); no portion of the bag may be constructed of webbing that exceeds a stretched measurement of 4.5 inches, the frame must be attached to a single rigid handle and be operated by hand;

I can tell you from my limited experience last summer that a shallower bag is less effective than a deeper bag trying to harvest Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon (a chum will immediately make a one-hundred-eighty degree turn as soon as it hits the dip net web and if we are not quick enough in lifting the dip net out of the water we will lose the chum, my wife had a tough time in trying to pull the dip net out of the water fast enough and she lost many harvestable chums) and if we **are more restrictive than the Personal Use Fishery** (which had just happened this morning in the action that was taken) it doesn't make sense since we are trying to catch the more abundant summer chums with little to no impact on

the Yukon River Chinook Salmon. As you know we are limited economically in our area and have little to no other ways to earn an income but through our commercial fishing.

I can also tell you that if we went to greater than one and one-half times the width of the rigid frame of the net opening we would also become less efficient due to the time it takes to maneuver the fish out of the net into the boat.

Thank you for your time.

John H. Lamont

Y-1 Yukon River Commercial Fisherman