

Substitute Language for Proposal 139

5 AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement of salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the commercial drift gillnet fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions. The department shall manage the Central District commercial drift gillnet fishery as follows:

- (1) weekly fishing periods are as described in 5 AAC 21.320(b);
- (2) the fishing season will open the third Monday in June or June 19, whichever is later, and
  - (A) from July 9 through July 15,
    - (i) fishing during the first regular fishing period is restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections; additional fishing time is allowed only in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict;
    - (ii) fishing during the second regular fishing period is restricted to the **Expanded** Kenai and **Expanded** Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;
    - (iii) at run strengths greater than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open one additional 12-hour fishing period in the **Expanded** Kenai and **Expanded** Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict and Drift Gillnet Area 1;

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(B) from July 16 through July 31,

- (i) at run strengths of less than 2,300,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during **all [ONE]** regular 12-hour fishing **periods [PERIOD]** will be restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict;
- (ii) at run strengths of 2,300,000 - 4,600,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, fishing during one regular 12-hour fishing period per week will be restricted to either or both the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict **and Drift Gillnet Area 1 or restricted to either or both the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict or Drift Gillnet Area 1; the other weekly 12-hour regular fishing period will be restricted to either or both the**

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**Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict;**

(iii) at run strengths greater than 4,600,000 sockeye salmon to the Kenai River, **one regular 12-hour fishing period per week will be restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict** [THERE WILL BE NO MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS DURING REGULAR FISHING PERIODS];

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**(iv) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open additional fishing periods in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict;**

Limitation

(C) from August 16 until closed by emergency order, Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods;

(D) from **August 1** [AUGUST 11] through August 15, there are no mandatory area restrictions to regular periods, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed under 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii), **or the department determines that less than one percent of the season's total sockeye drift net harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods of the drift gillnet fishery,** regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4].

Limitation

(b) For the purposes of this section,

(1) "Drift Gillnet Area 1" means those waters of the Central District south of Kalgin Island at 60° 20.43' N. lat.;

(2) "Drift Gillnet Area 2" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 54.83' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 39.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 41.08' N. lat., 151° 24.00' W. long. to a point at 60° 27.10' N. lat., 151° 25.70' W. long. to a point at 60° 20.43' N. lat., 151° 28.55' W. long.;

(3) "Drift Gillnet Area 3" means those waters of the Central District within one mile of mean lower low water (zero tide) south of a point on the West Foreland at 60° 42.70' N. lat., 151° 42.30' W. long.;

(4) "Drift Gillnet Area 4" means those waters of the Central District enclosed by a line from 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 34.74' W. long. to the Kalgin Buoy at 60° 04.70' N. lat., 152° 09.90' W. long. to a point at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 152° 18.62' W. long. to a point on the western shore at 59° 46.15' N. lat., 153° 00.20' W. long., not including the waters of the Chinitna Bay Subdistrict.

(c) The commissioner may depart from the provisions of the management plan under this section as provided in 5 AAC 21.363(e).