

Proposals 118, 123, and 126: maximum mesh size

These proposals seek to set the maximum mesh size in the subsistence and commercial beach seine as well as commercial purse seines to 3.5 inches. Several knowledgeable lower Yukon Area fishers have recommended that the maximum mesh size of these seines be increased to 4.0 inches because of increased gilling of Bering cisco and other whitefish species in the mesh size that is restricted to a maximum of 3.5 inches. Note that most fishers fishing in the fall Bering cisco fishery use 3.5 inch mesh gillnets. We believe that increasing the maximum mesh size in all seines to 4.0 inches will reduce the incidental bycatch of Bering cisco and other whitefish species without substantially increasing the incidental catch of other fish species. Incidentally caught pink salmon would be sold. Therefore, we recommend that the maximum mesh size of Yukon River beach seines and purse seines be increased to 4.0 inches.



Jack Schultheis
Operations Manager
Kwik'pak Fisheries