

PROPOSAL 121 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Expand the area of allowable subsistence drift gillnet fishing for chum salmon in Subdistrict 4-A of the Yukon Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(e)(2) is amended to read:

(e) In Districts 4, 5, and 6, salmon may not be taken for subsistence purposes by drift gillnets, except as follows:

...

(2) in Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek,

(A) king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14, unless closed by emergency order;

(B) from June 10 through August 2, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods during which chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In March 2015, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted regulations allowing subsistence drift gillnet fishing, by emergency order, for chum salmon in the upper portion of the Yukon Area Subdistrict 4-A from June 10 through August 2. The intent was to allow subsistence opportunity to target abundant summer chum salmon with drift gillnets during times of king salmon conservation, as there are few set net sites in the area and river conditions can be dangerous for set net fishing during high water events. Fishermen had noted that there was missed opportunity to catch summer chum salmon for subsistence purposes. In 2014, fishermen in the lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A stated that they also experienced difficulty in meeting their subsistence needs for summer chum salmon using set nets. This proposal would extend the drift gillnet opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon for subsistence purposes from the upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A to all of Subdistrict 4-A. It would provide fishery managers emergency order authority to open and close drift gillnet subsistence fishing targeting summer chum salmon during times of king salmon conservation in all of Subdistrict 4-A, not just in the upper portion of the subdistrict.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-017)
