

PROPOSAL 124 – 5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow for six-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in the commercial salmon fishery in Yukon River District 6 by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 05.331(d) is amended to read:

(d) In **Districts 4 and 6** [DISTRICT 4], salmon may be taken only with gillnets of six-inch or smaller mesh **during periods established** [AFTER A DATE SPECIFIED] by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow commercial set gillnets and fish wheels to be operated in Yukon River Districts 4–6. In 2014, gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh were allowed in Districts 1–2 for the directed harvest of summer chum salmon while reducing incidental king salmon harvest. However, the department does not have authority to specify six-inch or smaller mesh size for commercial set gillnet gear in District 6. Allowing for six-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets in the salmon fishery in Yukon River District 6 by emergency order gives fishery managers the flexibility to open and close set gillnet fishing targeting summer chum salmon in District 6, while minimizing king salmon mortality. It is common management practice to establish gear specifications by periods rather than after a date specified by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-026)
