

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 01.160. Fishing seasons and periods; and 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Increase subsistence fishing time with gillnets and beach seines in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound District, as follows:

In Subdistrict 1, allow fresh water subsistence periods east of Cape Nome five days a week from Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to Monday 6:00 p.m. from June 15 through August 15 with either gillnets or beach seine to allow subsistence fishermen an increased opportunity to harvest available salmon. After August 15, no beach seines in fresh waters unless by emergency order but gillnets would continue on a five day a week schedule. West of Cape Nome, allow marine water fishing five days a week from Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to Monday 6:00 p.m. with gillnets only. In the fresh water west of Cape Nome, allow for gillnet or beach seine from June 15 to August 1, from Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to Monday 6:00 p.m. After August 1 allow for gillnets only in fresh water.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Fisheries to address unnecessarily restrictive subsistence fishing periods and methods of harvest both east and west of Cape Nome in Norton Sound. I would like more time to fish when the weather may be better for fishing and processing fish, and also I would like to use more effective means of harvest during pink and chum seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Sparks

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