

**PROPOSAL 144 – 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specification.** Allow the use of five and one-half inch mesh gillnets across an entire channel in portions of the Koyukuk River for the purpose of targeting northern pike, as follows:

We would like to be able to continue to fish the way we once did, and be able to put a gill net across the entire channel of some waterways. There is a current season that allows us to use smaller mesh nets in the drainage, but we would like to be able to use larger mesh to target larger pike as the smaller mesh does not allow us to effectively catch the larger pike. We would like to do this in the spring when pike are moving out of the lakes and into the rivers.

We would like to be able to use up to a 5 ½ in. mesh until June 15 in Racetrack Slough off of the Koyukuk River as well as sloughs attached to the Huslia River. We would like to be able to use the larger mesh sizes across the entire slough. Since the intent of this is to target larger fish, the idea behind using the larger sized mesh is to allow the smaller whitefish to pass through the net unmolested.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There are too many pike in parts of the Koyukuk River drainage. Pike are excellent predators and this is leading to a potential decrease in salmon smolt survival, as well as less small mammals and waterfowl. Residents of Huslia used to string nets across sloughs and other pike heavy areas to catch large numbers of them for subsistence needs. This is no longer legal. We would like to change this regulation in order to harvest more pike for subsistence needs, as well as help increase salmon smolt survival, and the populations of small mammals and birds.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Wholecheese

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