

PROPOSAL 189 – 5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations. Allow for dual permit vessels and increased gear limits for dual permit vessels in the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon purse seine fishery, as follows:

The maximum seine length is 250 fathoms, or 300 fathoms with a "lock 2" permit. Prior to the fishing season an individual with two permits locked together must register with ADF&G their intent to fish that season with a "lock 2" permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Too many latent permits being added to the Area M salmon fishery.

Allow seine salmon permit holders to operate additional gear under a dual permit lock together. What we would like to call a "lock 2". Excessive activation of latent permits will result in too many fishing operations in the South Peninsula area to sustain reasonable livelihoods for the historic and current participants. In the past 10 years, an average of 49% of the available permits have been used in the fishery. We are asking for 20% gear increase in exchange for 100% of permit usage. With added permits to the current fishery we would be harmed by processor limits and loss in revenue to both the state and local economy tax base. Once the permits are locked together they cannot become unlocked or sold individually. Area M is currently in a rebuilding phase for salmon fishing. Our returns have been poor at best. This would also give relief to management, keeping track of less catcher vessels in the short seasons we have would be beneficial for rebuilding salmon stocks.

If nothing is done, more fishing operations will continue to be added to the current level and our escapement goals will continue to be low in local streams.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Koso and Don McCallum (EF-C15-093)
