

**PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** In the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area during times of conservation, require the return of a specified salmon species immediately to the water unharmed when beach seining, as follows:

5 AAC 01.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**(m) During times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of a specific species of salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and immediately reopen the season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area to subsistence fishing with beach seines and require that a specified salmon species be returned immediately to the water unharmed.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During times of abundance of one salmon species there may be the necessity to conserve another salmon species. The department could allow the harvest of the salmon species in abundance while still protecting the salmon species requiring conservation. For example, during recent years, it has been necessary to conserve king salmon by requiring the release of king salmon back to the water alive while beach seining for chum and pink salmon. In Subdistrict 1, there have been times when there was the need to conserve chum or coho salmon. Beach seine gear may be used in such instances to allow

harvest of other species, particularly pink salmon, while requiring live release of species returning in low numbers. This proposal would provide more flexibility for the department to address salmon conservation concerns throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-013)  
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**PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Allow the restriction of gillnet mesh size during times of conservation for chum and king salmon in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.170(i), (j), and (k) are amended to read:

(i) Notwithstanding (a) – (h) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines **that it is** [IT TO BE] necessary for the conservation of chum salmon, the commissioner, by emergency order, may close **the fishing season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area and immediately reopen the season in any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area during which gillnets**

(1) [THE PINK SALMON FISHING SEASON IN SUBDISTRICTS 1–6 AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON IN THOSE SUBDISTRICTS, DURING WHICH GILLNETS] must have a mesh size of four and one-half inches or less; **and**

(2) **may not exceed the length specified by the commissioner** [THE FISHING SEASON IN SUBDISTRICTS 2–6 AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN THE SEASON IN THOSE SUBDISTRICTS TO SUBSISTENCE FISHING WITH ANY GEAR THAT IS LAWFUL UNDER THIS SECTION, EXCEPT GILLNETS].

(j) Notwithstanding (a) – (h) of this section, during times when the commissioner determines **that** it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season in **any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area** [SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6] and immediately reopen the season in **any portion of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area** [THOSE SUBDISTRICTS] during which gillnets

(1) must have a mesh size of

(A) **four and one-half inches or less;**

(B) six inches or less; or

(C) [(B)] seven inches or less; and

(2) may not exceed the length specified by the commissioner.

(k) **Repealed** / / [IN SUBDISTRICTS 5 AND 6 THE COMMISSIONER MAY, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, OPEN AND CLOSE FISHING PERIODS DURING WHICH A GILLNET MAY HAVE A MESH SIZE NO GREATER THAN

(1) FOUR AND ONE-HALF INCHES;

(2) SIX INCHES; OR

(3) SEVEN INCHES].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under current regulations, the department may only restrict gillnet mesh size during subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5 and 6 for the conservation of king salmon and in Subdistricts 1–6 for the conservation of chum salmon. However, there are portions of the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area that are not part of

any subdistrict, such as the St. Michael and Stebbins areas that are adjacent to the Yukon Area. During years of king salmon conservation, fishermen have been able to fish in southern Norton Sound adjacent to the Yukon Area with no gillnet mesh size restrictions. This proposal would provide more flexibility for the department to address any chum or king salmon conservation concerns throughout the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area. Subsection (k) may be repealed since it is redundant to subsection (j).

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-014)  
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**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 (EF-C15-049)  
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**PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 01.170. Lawful gear and gear specifications.** Add cast net as a legal subsistence fishing gear and allow both dip net and cast net gear to be used in all subsistence fisheries in the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, as follows:

**5 AAC 01.170. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications.** (a) Salmon may be taken only by

- (1) gillnet;
- (2) beach seine;
- (3) fish wheel;
- (4) a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, as specified in (h) of this section;
- (5) dip net **or cast net**, as specified in (l) of this section.

(b) Fish other than salmon may be taken only by set gillnet, drift gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, pot, longline, fyke net, dip net, **cast net**, jigging gear, spear and lead, or, as specified in (h) of this section, by a hook and line attached to a rod or pole.

(l) [IN THE PILGRIM RIVER DRAINAGE,] Dip nets **or cast nets** may be used to take salmon, except that during times when the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the conservation of specific salmon species, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the season and immediately reopen the season during which specific salmon species must be returned immediately to the water alive.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I propose that the Board of Fisheries adopt regulations allowing the use of cast nets as well as dip nets in waters open to subsistence fishing in the Norton Sound - Port Clarence Area with the exception of fishing for salmon in those waters open only to hook and line only gear for salmon as described in 5 AAC 01.1.75(c). Use of cast nets is currently not authorized, nor is the use of dip nets for salmon except in the Pilgrim River. Allowing the use of cast nets and dip nets will provide opportunity for participation in subsistence fisheries that are not currently available. Cast nets and dip nets are less expensive than seine and drift or set gillnet gear and do not require the investment in boats and motors necessary for the effective use of seine and gillnet gear. Also, cast nets, and in some instances dip nets, are effective gear in waters that are not suitable for use of seines or gillnets. Cast nets and dip nets allow fishers to be more selective in the fish that are harvested, as non-target fish may be released back into the water with little or no harm.

The primary interest in use of cast nets, that I am aware of, is to take capelin along Norton Sound beaches when they arrive in mid-summer and to take white fish in fresh water later in the summer.

**PROPOSEDBY:** Dan Reed

(EF-C15-037)

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