Restrict commercial drift gillnet fishery to the Expanded Corridor and Drift Gillnet Area 1 from
August 1–15, as follows:

Amend the Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan as follows:

(c) from August 1 - 15, [THERE ARE NO MANDATORY AREA RESTRICTIONS TO REGULAR PERIODS,]

(1) fishing during both regular 12 hour periods per week will be restricted to one or
more of the following sections: (A) Expanded Kenai Section; (B) Expanded Kasilof
Section; (C) Anchor Point Section; (D) Drift Gillnet Area 1, except that if the Upper
Subdistrict set gill net fishery is closed under 5 AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)(iii), or the department
determines that less than one percent of the season’s total drift gill net sockeye salmon harvest
has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the drift gill net fishery,
regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4. In this subsection,
“fishing period” means a time period open to commercial fishing as measured by a 24-hour
calendar day from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.

(2) additional fishing time under this subsection is allowed only in one or more of the
following sections; (A) Expanded Kenai Section; (B) Expanded Kasilof Section; (C)
Anchor Point Section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? While changes to the drift
management plan adopted by the Board in 2014 have proven more effective in increasing
escapements of Northern District drainage salmon stocks during July and providing more
reasonable harvest opportunities for Northern District user groups during July, management during
2015 proved the plan inadequate in continuing those benefits throughout August. As currently
configured the plan allows unnecessary drift gillnet fishing in Drift Gillnet Area 2 during the first
half of August, which jeopardizes both attainment of Northern District drainage salmon
escapement needs and reasonable salmon harvest opportunities for Northern District and Northern
District drainage user groups. As proven many times the drift fleet can harvest plenty of surplus
Kenai River sockeye without corking off Northern District bound sockeye and coho salmon in
Area 2. Therefore, to address Northern conservation concerns and to allow more reasonable
Northern harvest opportunity for other user groups, this proposal seeks to amend the drift
management plan in a manner that still maintains drift gill netters an extremely liberal opportunity
to harvest surplus sockeye salmon during times of July and August abundance. Note: under this
proposal even if the drift fishery was restricted under the 1% rule, the department could still allow
the fleet to fish 7 days per week (5 days per week in the Expanded Kenai, Expanded Kasilof, and
Anchor Point Sections and 2 days per week in Drift Gillet Area 3 and 4 during a portion of the
season when sockeye salmon abundance is in decline and coho harvests makes up an increasing
portion of the drift catch).

Considering restrictions on other user groups during the August 1 - 31 timeframe, this proposal, if
adopted, should increase the likelihood of attaining Northern District escapement needs, provide
more reasonable harvest opportunity for Northern and other user groups, while retaining
significant drift gillnet harvest opportunity during August. In short, such changes would better
align the plan provisions with it’s stated purpose:
“The purpose of this management plan is to ensure adequate escapement of salmon into the Northern District drainages and to provide management guidelines to the department. The department shall manage the commercial drift gill net fishery to minimize the harvest of Northern District and Kenai River coho salmon in order to provide sport and guided sport fishermen a reasonable opportunity to harvest these salmon stocks over the entire run, as measured by the frequency of inriver restrictions.”

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F16-055)