

**PROPOSAL 135**

**5 AAC 01.670. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

Modify lawful gear for subsistence salmon fishing in Yakutat Bay, as follows:

We propose that subsistence fishing in Yakutat Bay with a gillnet be conducted as follows; The permit holder must be on, or in control of his net, or it must be disabled, ( tied up) so as not to be capable of harvesting fish in his absence during the months of April, May, June, and July. By doing so, the hope is to eliminate any Chinook be removed from the net by marine mammals.

We considered making this a district wide function for all fisheries, but decided it was only needed for what is primarily a fishery targeting Chinook, as this is the species that is jeopardy, and the main time it's a problem is during the months of April and May because there are not yet any other species of salmon around for predators accept for Chinook.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, the chronically low numbers of Chinook returning to the Situk estuary require us to make every effort to allow for as many Chinook as possible to reach the spawning grounds. During the months of April, May, June, and July, there is a substantial subsistence fishery that takes place in Yakutat Bay. During the months of April and May, the primary target is Chinook salmon. We understand the need for rural citizens to eat, we would just like to trim as much waste as possible. This fishery is slow pace, so nets are left unattended for lengthy periods of time. This allows for seals and sea lions to harvest Chinook from the nets while the fisherman is absent. The solution we recommend is eliminating as much waste as is possible.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F17-040)

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