PROPOSAL 230

5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and specifications.
Allow the use of drift gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence purposes in Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(e) is amended to include paragraphs (4) and (5) to read:

(4) in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C to the mouth of the Yuki River,
  (A) king salmon may be taken by drift gillnets from June 10 through July 14, unless closed by emergency order;

  (B) from June 10 through August 2, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, fishing periods during which chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets; and

  (C) chum salmon may be taken by drift gillnets after August 2.

(5) a person may not operate a drift gillnet that is more than 150 feet in length and more than 35 meshes in depth during the seasons and areas described in (4) of this subsection.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Subsistence fishermen have noted the limited number and loss of fishing sites for stationary subsistence fishing gear in Yukon River Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. This has resulted in some Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C subsistence fishermen choosing to pay additional fuel costs to participate in the subsistence drift gillnet fishery in Subdistrict 4-A. Subsistence fishermen have reported an increasing number of fishermen fishing in Subdistrict 4-A and that there is increased competition for available drift sites. The loss of sites and additional competition in District 4 subsistence fishing sites resulted in the unforeseen consequence of inadequate opportunity for subsistence fishermen to harvest salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Louden, Nulato, and Koyukuk Tribes
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