

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 24.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Allow permit stacking and increase the amount of purse seine gear that may be operated from a vessel with two limited entry purse seine permit holders onboard in the Prince William Sound Area commercial salmon fishery, as follows:

In the seine specifications and operations section (a) " a purse seine can not be more than 150 fathoms in length, **leads deeper than the seine or exceeding 75 fathoms in length, or leads with mesh size less than six and one quarter inches may not be used,**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose to allow the 75 fathom lead to be equal to the mesh size in the 150 fathom seine if a vessel has two PWS purse seine permits onboard and is registered with CFEC as a vessel with two seine permits on board.

Currently legal gear is 150 fathoms of salmon seine not more than 4 inches stretched measure and 75 fathoms of lead not less than 6 and one quarter stretched mesh size.

I would like the BOF to amend the regulation to allow permit stacking for the PWS purse seine fleet that would allow any vessel with two PWS purse seine permits onboard to use 225 fathoms of net with a mesh size of not more than 4 inches stretched measure. This would encourage less vessels to fish each year in PWS.

BB drift gillnet, Cook inlet drift gillnet and SE purse seine fishermen have all recognized the need to reduce their fleets. BB and Cook Inlet Drift fleets accomplished this through permit stacking and SE purse seine accomplished fleet reduction through a permit buy back program.

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