

Proposal 177

5 AAC 33.380. District 13: Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Management Plan.

Add purse seine and drift gillnet as allowed gear types in the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA), as follows:

5 AAC 33.380. District 13: Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

(a) This management plan provides for the harvest of hatchery-produced king and chum salmon in the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area by the troll, **purse seine, and drift gillnet fisheries** [FLEET].

(b) The department, in consultation with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), shall, by emergency order, open and close the Crawfish Inlet Terminal Harvest Area to provide for the harvest of hatchery-produced king and chum salmon by troll, **purse seine, and drift gillnet** gear.

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the January 2018 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting in Sitka, Alaska the board adopted a proposal to create a new enhanced salmon fishery Terminal Harvest Area (THA) in Crawfish Inlet. The Crawfish Inlet THA management plan only provides common property fishing opportunities for king and chum salmon to vessels using troll gear. In 2018, the chum salmon return to Crawfish Inlet was over five times greater than expected and it became necessary to open the THA for common property fisheries to vessels using purse seine gear to harvest the surplus; drift gillnet gear was not allowed during these openings because Crawfish Inlet is not a traditional drift gillnet area. The 2019 chum salmon return to Crawfish Inlet is expected to be larger than in 2018 and this has generated interest from Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association and drift gillnet permit holders in modifying the Crawfish Inlet THA management plan specifically allowing both drift gillnet and purse seine gear types as well as troll gear to participate in common property fisheries within the THA.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

(BGP)
