

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications.

Allow subsistence fishing for salmon with dipnets near Dillingham, as follows:

Allow subsistence harvest with dip nets in waters in the vicinity of Dillingham.

This gear type would be added to the subsistence permit and require harvest reporting just like other gear types. Permit must be in possession during active fishing. The definition of legal dip net gear shall be the same as for the rest of the state: 5 AAC 39.105(d)(24)

Use should be limited to close to Dillingham:

Suggested boundary: The waters and both sides of the Nushagak River from Lewis Point down stream to the upper boundary of the commercial fishing district and; the waters and both sides of the Wood River from Red Bluff down stream to its confluence with the Nushagak River. These boundaries should eliminate or minimize any potential conflicts with sport angling in the area.

Season would be the same as for all salmon subsistence fishing in the area (or preferably May 1 to September 30).

Interference with set subsistence, commercial, sport or other dip net gear may need to be discouraged in some manner. Possibly prohibit dip netting within 25 feet of a set net, 10 feet of other dip net fishers.

Limit harvest to salmon only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to allow subsistence salmon fishing with dip nets to be legal gear near Dillingham. Currently subsistence salmon fishing in the Nushagak /Wood River area in the vicinity of Dillingham does not allow dip nets as legal gear. Set net gear is expensive and requires considerable effort and space to deploy as well as having the potential for very large catches. Dip nets would be less expensive, easier to operate, and for those who do not desire large catches, it would be easier to limit their take. Dip nets would allow sorting of the catch and releasing alive those fish not desired such as pink and chum salmon or spawned or damaged fish. Sorting is of particular interest in years of very large pink or chum runs. I suspect that set nets result in quite a few chums and pinks killed and wasted in some years.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Dunaway

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