PROPOSAL 126
5 AAC 01.670. Lawful gear and gear specifications.
Repeal net tending requirement in Yakutat Bay, as follows:

We recommend that the new regulation be repealed and restored to its original regulation. There was no data produced to back the need for the change in the regulation which is now in effect. We strongly feel it was all based on speculation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The new regulation (5 AAC 01.670) that went into effect in 2018 that requires subsistence users to attend their net at all times.

Reasons:
This new regulation was proposed in 2017 and implemented on behalf of Yakutat in 2018 by the Fish and Game Advisory Committee without any public notices for comments because of poor networking or posting notices. Because of this, the regulation only reflects the view of a few.

The subsistence fisheries are targeted and hampered. This regulation specifically targets one group of users, bay subsistence fisheries, but they abolish this new regulation with the opening of the commercial set net fishery. There is no regulation that hampers the commercial fishermen in this way.

State law requires that subsistence is a high priority. With this new regulation, many families are hampered in acquiring their subsistence King Salmon.

Most people who subsistence fish check their nets periodically over the course of the day instead of sitting on their nets because most are at work. There are a few who leave it out too long without checking it, but it is a very small fraction of all who subsistence fish for Chinooks, and the majority should not be penalized for those few.

There is no data collected that shows this regulation would help save any salmon or how much salmon is taken by marine mammals such as the sea lions or seal. As many know, the troll fishermen lose their kings to sea lions off their hooks, and the commercial fishermen lose their kings to the seals and sea lions on a daily basis, but the subsistence users are the only ones targeted by this regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc.   (HQ-F20-127)
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