

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Limit the length of drift gillnet tows to 100 feet, as follows:

The Board of Fish should adopt a maximum towline length limit of 100' from the tow point of a drift gillnet vessel to the beginning of the net in the Bristol Bay drift gillnet fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Bristol Bay drift gillnet fishery does not have a maximum towline length limit. Towlines in excess of a full net length (150-200 fathoms or 900-1200 feet) have become common in the Bristol Bay fishery. Long towlines are used to anchor nets in shallow water and allow the vessel to transit to deeper water while still maintaining control of the net. Towlines in excess of 100' pose serious safety concerns for other vessels fishing or traveling around vessels employing the use of excessively long towlines.

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