

*Proposal 242 is a board-generated proposal created by the board at its October 2012 meeting. This proposal will be considered by the board at its ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH meeting scheduled for February 26 – March 4, 2013.*

**PROPOSAL 242 – 5 AAC 09.332(a). Seine specifications and operations.** Allow commercial salmon seine net depth in the Alaska Peninsula Area to be measured in feet and inches, which would allow additional webbing to be attached beyond the current restriction of 350 meshes of three and one-half inch and 25 meshes of seven inches, as follows:

(a) Purse seines or hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. A purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed **116 feet 8 inches** [375 MESHES] in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first **14 feet 7 inches** [25 MESHES] above the leadline may not **have meshes** [BE] more than 7 inches **in mesh size**.

**ISSUE:** The description of legal seine gear in 5 AAC 09.322 states that seines must be between 100 and 250 fathoms in length and not exceed 350 meshes in depth. Seine mesh size may not exceed three and one-half inches, except the first 25 meshes above the leadline, which may not be more than seven inches in mesh size.

A few fishermen have purchased seine nets that meet the description of maximum allowable gear, but were put together with components that have subsequently shrunk and are said to fish less efficiently than nets that have maintained their original specifications. The shrunken nets may not be modified to increase their depth, since the depth restriction is expressed in “number of meshes”, which these nets already have. Fishermen with the shrunken nets may be at a disadvantage compared to fishermen who have nets of higher quality components.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Commercial fishermen who use seine net components that shrink will be at a disadvantage compared to commercial fishermen who fish with net components that do not shrink.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those seiners using net seine net components that shrink.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Enforcement of seine gear depth will be more difficult.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Board of Fisheries. *(formerly ACR 5)*  
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**PROPOSAL 250 - 5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** For the Ugashik and Egegik districts, establish provisions to allow a person who holds two Bristol Bay CFEC set gillnet permits to "stack" those permits and operate extra gillnet gear within certain gear specifications, including length of gear and gear marking requirements, as follows:

5 AAC 06.331 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**(v) In the Ugashik and Egegik Districts, a CFEC permit holder who holds two Bristol Bay set gillnet permits may not operate more than four set gillnets, and the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by the CFEC permit holder may not exceed 100 fathoms. A single set gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms in length. The buoys must be marked as specified in 5 AAC 06.334 and 5 AAC 39.280 with both of the CFEC permit holder's five digit permit numbers followed by the letter "D". In addition, at least one cork every 10 fathoms along the cork line must be plainly and legibly marked with both CFEC permit numbers. All identifiers must be displayed in a manner that is plainly visible, unobscured, and in a color that contrasts with the background.**

**ISSUE:** Whether to allow set gillnet permit stacking in selected districts of Bristol Bay.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Set gillnet permit stacking will not be allowed in Bristol Bay. This may allow new participants to enter the fishery as multiple permit holders divest. However, it may also increase difficulty for families to retain possession of permits as family members leave and re-enter the fishery in response to changing circumstances.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Set gillnet fishermen who are able to own and fish two permits.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unknown.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The board considered repealing the sunset clause for this regulation at the December 2012 meeting in Naknek and subsequently voted to allow the regulation to sunset.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Board of Fisheries.

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