

PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 01.120. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Recognize rod and reel fishing as a legal means for subsistence fishing in all of the Kotzebue District, as follows:

5 AAC 01.120(b) is amended to read:

(b) Fish other than salmon may be taken by set gillnet, drift gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, pot, longline, fyke net, dip net, jigging gear, spear, and lead, or, as specified in (f) of this section, **by rod and reel** or by a hook and a line attached to a rod or a pole.

...

(f) a person may use a rod and reel or a hook and line attached to a rod or a pole when subsistence fishing only

(1) in the state waters of, and all flowing waters that drain into, the Chukchi Sea or Kotzebue Sound from **Point Hope**[CAPE ESPENBERG] to Cape Prince of Wales;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recognize rod and reel as lawful gear for taking fish for subsistence and change the geographic area that 5 AAC 01.120 pertains to.

People in the Northwest Arctic Borough currently need a sport fish license to subsistence fish with rod and reel in state waters. Many fisheries, like herring snagging off the beach at Kotzebue and trout fishing in the Kivalina Lagoon, are carried out by people during a brief period using a rod and reel who otherwise do not fish with rod and reel the remainder of the year or for sport at any time. Others who fish in the region and around the state (whether residing in the region or not) regularly obtain sport fishing licenses. This would not be expected to change in any meaningful way if the proposal was adopted. This would be expected to pertain to a small number of individuals who use a rod and reel only for subsistence purposes in a very limited way in time and space.

Many of these same individuals being discussed currently do not purchase sport fishing licenses. The majority of their fishing is done by every other legal subsistence method throughout the year, which is basically everything from nets to hook and line through the ice. The only exception to legal methods for subsistence fishing is rod and reel. Because they are used to being allowed to harvest hundreds of fish throughout the year by all other methods it should not be remarkable that they may not even think about it the very few times they may harvest fish with rod and reel. However, some of them have been subject to law enforcement actions over the years due to their lack of a license.

A similar allowance is provided on the northern Seward Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-028)
