

**PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 21.331. and 5 AAC 21.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear in the Cook Inlet Area.** Allow a single person holding two Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Cook Inlet drift gillnet limited entry permits to operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, as follows:

5 AAC 21.333 ....

(a) Except as specified in (e)-(g) of this section one person holding two Cook Inlet CFEC limited entry drift permits may fish up to 200 fathoms of drift gear from the same vessel under this section, or two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may fish concurrently from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gear under this section.

(b) Repealed 5/18/2014

(c) When one person holding two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permits, or when two Cook Inlet CFEC permit holders fish from the same vessel and individually or jointly operate additional drift gillnet gear under this section, ....

(d) When one person holding two permits or ....

(e) The individual or joint ....

(f) A vessel with a double permit holder or with ....

(g) Repealed 5/21/2011

- and -

5 AAC 21.331 ....

(c) A drift gillnet may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. No person may operate more than one drift gillnet, except as specified in 5AAC21.333

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal seeks to allow a single person to hold two CFEC Cook Inlet drift gillnet permits and operate both at the same time on one vessel as is permitted in 5AAC21.333. Presently as more and more salmon are allocated away from the commercial fishery to the sport fishery, the economic viability of individual drift fishers is negatively impacted. If adopted, this proposal will reduce the number of boats fishing, and over time, perhaps lowering the fleet to half its present number. Additionally, the number of nets fishing will be reduced significantly, resulting in more escapement to other users. Permit stacking in 5AAC21.333 requires two permit holders which is problematic, because it puts two skippers on the same vessel and makes them equally responsible for how the gear is fished, when to set, where to set, etc. This can create liability issues and conflicts between permit holders. If adopted this proposal will provide another option other than permit stacking.

Changing/adding language to 5 AAC 21.331 is necessary if the BOF adopts the changes requested to 5AAC21.333.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert E Merchant

(EF-F16-019, EF-F16-020)

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