

**PROPOSAL 105**

**5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.**

Allow use of set gillnets with 7 1/2" mesh to harvest salmon other than king salmon and other non-salmon fish species on the Kuskokwim River for subsistence purposes during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

A gillnet mesh size may not exceed 7 1/2 inches, 60 feet in length and may only be operated as a set gillnet; the gillnet operators may anchor their gillnets using commercial metal or aluminum anchors or make shift anchors out of wood regardless of where the high water mark is at the location of the individuals traditional set net site.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The use of 4" gillnet during times of Chinook Salmon Conservation is inadvertently causing whitefish species to decline and in order for subsistence users to get a taste of other Salmon species, this particular proposal needs to be repealed and replaced.

People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have fished for white fish and chee fish right after the river ice breaks up. They only target those species until chinook and other salmon species migrate up the Kuskokwim River and river drainages to their spawning ground. We all know that other salmon species, i. e. chum and sockeye salmon migrate along with chinooks to their spawning grounds and those two salmon can be targeted with the 7 1/2 inch mesh gill nets as outlined in 5 AAC 01.270 (m) (1) (A). This will ensure that we do not over fish all species of white fish and decimate the next generation of chinook salmon that migrate up the Kuskokwim River and its drainages. (See 5 AAC 01.270 (m) (1) for specifics on chum salmon in the 2016-2017 Subsistence and Personal Use Statewide Fisheries Regulations.)

People will over fish white fish and other small fish that come up the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries which in the future will cause us not to fish for those species if this regulation is not changed and may do more harm to the next generation of Chinook that migrate up to their spawning grounds. People along the Kuskokwim River drainages will have to look elsewhere to set their gill nets where they do not generally set their nets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-082)

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