

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 39.260. Seine specifications and operations.

Specify that any line used to make the attachment between a skiff and a purse seine used in a commercial salmon fishery may not exceed 10 fathoms in length, as follows:

5 AAC 39.260 is amended to read:

...

(j) A seine vessel must be attached to one end, and only one end, of a purse seine or lead when it is in operation. Any line used to [MAKE THE ATTACHMENT] **attach the seine vessel or skiff to a purse seine** may not be more than 10 fathoms in length.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Purse seines used in the commercial salmon fishery are operated by a purse seine vessel and a skiff attached to opposite ends of the purse seine each time the purse seine is deployed. Any line used to attach the purse seine and seine vessel may not exceed 10 fathoms in length, however length of any line used to attach the purse seine to the skiff is not specified in regulation. In some areas of the state a purse seine is considered to have ceased fishing when both ends of the seine are attached to the seine vessel. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has received reports that in at least one of these areas some fishermen attach a second line, much longer than the tow line, to the skiff-end of the seine, and near the end of a fishing period, attach the opposite end of that line to the seine vessel, thereby meeting the requirement that both ends of the seine be attached to the seine vessel when the fishing period closes. In these instances where the long connector line is deployed, fishermen have been able to keep the purse seine in an open and actively fishing configuration after the close of a fishing period. Limiting the length of any line connecting the seine vessel or skiff and the purse seine to 10 fathoms will eliminate this practice and promote orderly closure of commercial fishing periods for salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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