

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decline and in order for subsistence users to get a taste of other Salmon species, this particular proposal needs to be repealed and replaced.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)

PROPOSAL 106

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

Allow set gillnets to be operated for subsistence purposes within 50 feet of each other in that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River, as follows:

In that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage from the north end of Eek Island upstream to the mouth of the Kolmakoff River, no part of the set gillnet located within a tributary to the Kuskokwim River may be set or operated within 50 feet of any part of another set gillnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? All throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage there are a few eddies to set gillnets during spring to fall and under ice set nets during winter months where we see nets set less than the current regulation. People along the Kuskokwim River drainages have set gillnets in eddies in spring to fall and under ice gear in winter which are usually less than 150 feet in length. In order to correct this, the department must adopt a revised regulation that meets the needs of set netters throughout the year.

PROPOSED BY: Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-086)

PROPOSAL 107

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

Allow the use of dipnets in the Kuskokwim River drainage subsistence salmon fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and specifications and operation. (a) Salmon may be taken only by gillnet, beach seine, a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, handline, **dip net**, or fish wheel subject to the restrictions set out in this section and 5 AAC 01.275, except that salmon may also be taken by spear in the Holitna River drainage, Kanektok River drainage, Arolik River drainage, and the drainage of Goodnews Bay.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add the gear type dip nets to the list of gear that can be used to catch salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage. Currently dip nets can only be used during times of king salmon conservation. There is a history of dip net use in various locations of the Kuskokwim.

If we wish to encourage dip net use during this time of conservation it makes sense to allow dip net use during other times when the density of other types of salmon is greater and provides a better opportunity to be successful with the use of dip nets. although we know there has been use of dip net in the past, dip nets are a method that has long been out of use, so successful use needs to be relearned. Being able to dip net when there are higher concentrations of salmon in the river, such as sockeye and chums, would be a more successful experience for the new dip netter and would encourage use of this method during times of king salmon conservation.

PROPOSED BY: Stony Holitna Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-031)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations.

Add dipnets as legal gear for subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim Area, as follows:

Allow subsistence dipnetting during gillnet opening: to ensure that people who don't have gillnets have the opportunity to get fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow dipnetting during subsistence gillnetting because some people don't own gillnet and don't want too much fish caught.

PROPOSED BY: Iqurmiut Tribal Council

(HQ-F18-002)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 01.275. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.

Close marine waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to subsistence fishing during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

During times of Chinook salmon conservation, the Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like the Commissioner to extend the current regulatory boundary line located at the south end of Eek Island and just below the west point called Kookaq in the Kuskokwim River mouth 10 miles out, or as far out as the ADF&G authority, including marine waters in order to extend Chinook salmon conservation authority.

Suggested regulatory language: 5 AAC 01.275 (e)

During times of subsistence Chinook salmon closures, the commissioner shall close marine waters immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to address the conservation of Chinook salmon in times of conservation. The purpose of this proposal is to keep fisherman out of the milling areas during times of conservation. This proposal is to add new regulation, during times of conservation to continue setting conservation consistent throughout the drainage.

The issue is that there have been known Chinook salmon that mill in the brackish areas near the ADF&G regulatory markers at the Kuskokwim River mouth. Fishermen from many Kuskokwim River villages have been known to travel to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River to harvest Chinook Salmon. There have been reports of Chinook Salmon being caught at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River in quantities of 80 fish per day. It is felt that there is not an equal opportunity for harvest of these Chinook Salmon when they are caught in this area while there are conservation restrictions in the river main stem. Therefore it is suggested there be a closure on these bodies of water that serve as milling areas for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EF-F18-091)

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 01.275. Waters closed to subsistence fishing; 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim — Goodnews Area.

Close all fishing in non-salmon spawning rivers of the Kuskokwim River within five miles of the confluence during times of king salmon conservation, as follows:

The Commissioner shall close non-salmon spawning rivers (Tagayanaq, Ishkowik, Tuntutuliak, Kialiq, Johnson, Kwiik and all other unnamed creeks, sloughs and rivers) in times of chinook salmon conservation as follows with the following restrictions: Non salmon spawning rivers shall be closed starting from the mouth to five miles upstream. Set nets and drifting with any size gear are prohibited in times of chinook salmon conservation within the 5 mile buffer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is no current regulation on non-salmon spawning rivers in times of Chinook salmon conservation on the Kuskokwim River. For the residents of the Kuskokwim River to truly conserve chinook salmon for the future generations, the non-salmon spawning rivers must be closed five miles upstream from the mouth of these rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Organized Village of Kwethluk

(HQ-F18-083)
