

**PROPOSAL 131**

**5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.**

Remove restrictions to the drift gillnet fishery so that the fishery would occur during two inlet-wide fishing periods per week, as follows:

Remove all restrictions that prohibit Inlet-wide regular openings two days per week throughout the season for drift gillnetting in Cook Inlet. Emergency Order Authority would still be available for the department, should there be conservation concerns in years of low abundance.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The restrictions imposed on the drift fleet, especially for the second half of July, have ruined the orderly harvest of fish and have taken away the opportunity to harvest and profit from abundant salmon stocks. Our primary money fish, Kenai and Kasilof sockeye, have been grossly over-escaped, and many other healthy stocks of all species go practically unharvested or grossly underutilized. That our state, which really needs raw fish taxes and has high unemployment, would allow this resource to go so desperately underutilized is unconscionable.

**PROPOSED BY:** Teague Vanek

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