

PROPOSAL 188

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

Eliminate the drift gillnet one-percent rule, as follows:

Repeal the one-percent rule. Allow regular fishing periods. Let people end their fishing seasons when they feel it's not worth fishing any more.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The so-called one-percent rule for sockeye is causing problems very detrimental to the Cook Inlet commercial fisheries. Great opportunities are being lost as surplus fish are going unharvested and not being utilized in our local and state economies. Local canneries must close their buying operations early due to lack of access to these fish. Local fishermen could be extending their seasons a few more weeks, thereby adding to the area's economy. At times, the pink, chum, and coho runs are very abundant, sometimes being the largest wild runs in the whole state, and they are always valuable. Also, often there are late pulses of sockeye that could be harvested by those fishermen who choose to keep working the season.

Adding jobs and value to our economic base is always a good thing, especially now with our state's recession and high unemployment, and especially when the resource is there and not being utilized.

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