

PROPOSAL 279

5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.

Allow two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders to fish concurrently from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open, as follows:

5 AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms of drift gillnet in Bristol Bay. (a) Two Bristol Bay drift gillnet CFEC permit holders may concurrently fish from the same vessel and jointly operate up to 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear under this section, except

- (1) in the Togiak District;
- (2) in a special harvest area;
- [(3) IN THE BRISTOL BAY AREA WHEN THE NAKNEK RIVER SPECIAL HARVEST AREA IS OPEN UNDER 5 AAC 06.360.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to allow the continued use of dual drift gillnet permit operations in Bristol Bay when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open. When this regulation was adopted the growth and importance of dual-permit drift gillnet operations was unforeseen and many of the concerns over movement of dual-permit operations into the Nushagak District, when 5 AAC 06.333 was adopted, are no longer present. In 2019, over 40% of CFEC drift gillnet permit holders were involved in dual-permit operations and dual-permit operations have become integral to the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. Preseason, when many dual-permit operations are formed, it is impossible for permit holders to know if the NRSHA will be opened. Elimination of dual-permit operations inseason results in increased cost to the fleet, reduced efficiency, and reduced harvest efficiency.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Heyano

(Formerly ACR 8)
