

**Submitted by Board Member Märít Carlson-Van Dort, prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game<sup>1</sup>.**

January 17, 2023

The sinking of gillnets has been discussed for commercial, subsistence, and personal use fishing in the Yukon Area with Board Members, stakeholders, ADFG and YRDFA. The following language is recommended for each section:

Commercial regulations (statewide):

5 AAC 39.250 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 39.250. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

(d) The float line and floats of gillnets must be floating on the surface of the water while the net is fishing, unless natural conditions cause the net to temporarily sink. The restriction of this subsection does not apply in the Arctic-Kotzebue Area (5 AAC 03.100), the Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area (5 AAC 04.100), the Yukon Area (5 AAC 05.100) **from October 1 to April 30**, the Kuskokwim Area (5 AAC 07.100), and the Kodiak Area (5 AAC 18.100).

Subsistence regulations (Yukon Area):

5 AAC 01.220 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications.**

(c) The following restrictions apply to subsistence fishing:

**(15) In Districts 1 and 2, the float line and floats of gillnets must be floating on the surface of the water while the net is fishing, unless natural conditions cause the net to temporarily sink from May 1 to September 30.**

**(16) In Districts 3–6, gillnets in operation sunk below the surface must have a red keg, buoy, or cluster of floats visible on the surface of the water at each end of the submerged net, and for submerged gillnets over 60 feet in length, a third red keg, buoy, or cluster of floats must be attached to the middle of the net.**

\*\*\*\*\*As written in RC 55\*\*\*\*\*

Personal use regulations (Yukon Area):

5 AAC 77.171(a) is amended to read:

**5 AAC 77.171. Lawful gear for personal use finfish fishing.**

(a) In Subdistrict 6-C, finfish may be taken for personal use only by set gillnets and fish wheels as follows:

...

**(7) the float line and floats of gillnets must be floating on the surface of the water while the net is fishing, unless natural conditions cause the net to temporarily sink from May 1 to September 30.**

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<sup>i</sup> Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.