

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Reduce maximum gillnet depth to 70 meshes, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. (a) The size and operation of drift gillnets is as follows:

(3) In the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern Districts, no drift gillnet may exceed 70 [90] meshes in depth.

(b)The size and operation of set gillnets is as follows:

(C) in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts, a set gillnet may not exceed 70 [90] meshes in depth;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Area M salmon seine fisheries harvest the depleted western Alaska chinook and chum salmon stocks. Sockeye salmon are known to prefer surface waters while chinook and chum run deeper. Sockeye salmon are the primary target of these fisheries, the money fish. While extraordinary conservation measures have been taken to conserve the many Alaskan stocks of chinook and western Alaskan chum stocks. Focusing these fisheries on sockeye to help with the conservation of depleted salmon stocks which surround Area M is logical fisheries management.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This concern has been widely discussed in western Alaskan groups. I was not aware of the proposal being brought to the Board of Fisheries this cycle, so I am submitting it just ahead of the proposal deadline.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Lean

(EF-F26-078)
