

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 06.374. Kvichak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

Modify the fishing period ratio between the set gillnet and drift gillnet gear groups, and change the distance in which gear associated with set gillnet fishing must be removed in the Kvichak River Special Harvest Area , as follows:

Modify point (d) to

The drift gillnet and set gillnet fisheries will open separately, with a seasonal ratio of two drift gillnet fishing periods to every one set gillnet fishing period.....

[THE DRIFT GILLNET AND SET GILLNET FISHERIES WILL OPEN SEPARATELY, WITH A SEASONAL RATIO OF THREE DRIFT GILLNET FISHING PERIODS TO EVERY ONE SET GILLNET FISHING PERIOD....]

If point (d) is approved then modify point (e)(3) to read:

beyond 30 feet from the mean highwater mark, all gear associated with set gillnet fishing must be removed when it is not being used to fish in the KRSHA;

[(3) BEYOND 500 FEET FROM SHORE, ALL GEAR ASSOCIATED WITH SET GILLNET FISHING MUST BE REMOVED WHEN IT IS NOT BEING USED TO FISH IN THE KRSHA;]

This would allow the drift fishermen to be more effective when fishing the KRSHA since fish will gravitate toward the banks inside the river. By not having to avoid set net anchors 500' off shore it will make it much easier. Leaving a top anchor point for set net fishermen is important, which is why I propose reducing it from 500' to 30' as opposed to just removing ALL gear.

My two modifications would allow more fishing opportunity for set net fishermen and make drift openings more effective at harvesting fish.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider some adaptations to the wording adopted at the March 2025 meeting which would make the KRSHA more appropriate for the Kvichak River rather than using rubber stamped wording from the Naknek River Special Harvest area.

One point of possible contention is altering the ratio of drift to set net openings. In a perfect world, we would use a dynamic ratio of openings based on actual participation. When drift participation increases they would receive more openings and vice versa, with the objective of providing economic viability for the set net fleet (which is less capable of transferring districts) while providing economic opportunity for the drift fleet that chooses to fish the KRSHA.

Here are some relevant points about why the NRSHA has a 3:1 ratio of openings. Had we continued to fish the NRSHA I believe we would have altered that ratio to be 2:1 because the 3:1 ratio didn't roughly result in an 84/16 split. It is just that we only fished the NRSHA for 1.5 seasons at 3:1 and it lost its importance as something to be addressed at the board of fish meetings.

Prior to 2003 NRSHA had alternating openings and prior to that they were concurrent. (digital records online unavailable prior to 2003).

2003 December – Prop 57 established that the district allocation of 84% drift and 16% set be applied in the NRSHA. Fished the 2003-2005 season like this.

2006 December – Prop 95 replaced allocation in the NRSHA with 3:1 because low participation by drift lead to extended waiting by set net fleet. In 2005 set net fleet waited 9 tides between openings while drift fished. (proposed by my wife and I). Fished this ratio in 2006, part of 2007, and a week in 2018.

When comparing the NRSHA and the KRSHA that in the KRSHA industry experts expect less set net participation due to the remote location of the fishery and the great distance to cabins and homes in Naknek, while at the same time drift participation would increase due to the fact that the KRSHA encompasses 26 square miles of water at high tide compared to 13 square miles in the NRSHA. The ratio of participation shifting will have a large impact on how many openings are necessary in order to provide proportionate harvest opportunity. (openings * net length * #permits = fathoms of fishing opportunity)

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed this issue members of the Naknek Kvichak Advisory Committee who attended the March 16, 2025 board of fisheries meeting as well as other drift and set fishermen over the phone.

PROPOSED BY: Reid Ten Kley

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