

PROPOSAL 49

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

Modify the ratio of fishing periods between set gillnet and drift gillnet gear groups, based on gear type specific participation in the Kvichak River Special Harvest Area, as follows:

The Board should create a dynamic ratio system to alternate fishing periods between drift gillnet and set gillnet that changes based on gear type participation.

(D) To the extent practicable, drift gillnet and set gillnet will open separately, with openings alternating between the two gear groups. After a total of four openings, the openings will alternate between the two gear groups with a ratio according to the participation during the most recent openings:

(1) Drift permits delivered were greater than 500, then 3:1 (Drift to Set openings)

(2) Drift permits delivered were greater than 300 but less than 500, the 2:1 (Drift to Set openings)

(3) Drift permits delivered were less than 300, then 1:1 (Drift to Set openings)

(D) [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. THE FIRST FISHING PERIOD WILL OPEN TO SET GILLNETS.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board to revise and rewrite sections of the newly adopted Kvichak River

Special Harvest Area Management plan to address fishing period allocative concerns and gear type specific disadvantages.

At its originating stages, the KRSHA was written to mirror the Naknek River Special Harvest Area. All of the other Special Harvest Area's management plans Bay-wide contain some of their own unique language that is specific to their unique river system(s).

During a traditional season (without Special Harvest Areas) in the Naknek/Kvichak, set gillnets have more potential fishing time "in district" than drift, yet set catches much less per permit than drift gillnet. Currently in the NRSHA, the fishing period ratio is 3:1 drift to set and set gillnets have and could experience undue hardship – One simply can't "make a season" with such little fishing time. The current drift to set ratio of 3:1 in the KRSHA puts set gillnets at an unfair disadvantage. The NRSHA regulations have changed many times in the last 25 years, and the 3:1 ratio is far from a "Standard". The NRSHA ratio of 3:1 was based on gear type success within the Naknek special harvest area, attempting to follow the Naknek/Kvichak district's allocation plan. These numbers were based on older historical data of drift to set permit ratios in the district.

Since the creation of the NRSHA, fishing fleets have been modernized. It is now common practice for drift gillnets to "chase fish". It is common to see higher numbers of drift boats

starting in Egegik and Nushagak (where the run is traditionally earlier), then come and finish the season in the Naknek/Kvichak (where the run is traditionally later). Set gillnets don't have the same mobile capabilities and can't easily change districts. The number of set permits in district remains relatively fixed, while the drift participation changes both during the season, and from year to year. The most fair and equitable way to set up a new special harvest area is to do so based on participation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I wrote the proposal on my own, but developed my proposal after attending the March 16th 2025 Board of Fisheries Meeting, reading the Naknek/Kvichak AC's suggestions, and discussing management options/opinions with district fishermen, associations, and individuals from the Naknek/Kvichak AC board.

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