

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 03.374. Kvichak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

Allow extra drift gillnet to be carried on board the vessel in the Kvichak River Special Harvest Area, as follows:

Replace point (f)(3)

notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.240, a person operating a commercial salmon fishing vessel in the Kvichak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area may carry additional drift or set gillnet gear on board the fishing vessel if the additional gear is stored in a net bag or in a brailer bag; for the purposes of this paragraph, "brailer bag" means a bag-shaped net on board a drift gillnet vessel used to lift fish from the hold of the vessel into a tender vessel, processing vessel, or processing facility;

[A VESSEL MAY NOT HAVE MORE THAN 150 FATHOMS OF DRIFT GILLNET ON BOARD THE VESSEL.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider requiring drift vessels to carry extra gear onboard during the Kvichak River Special Harvest fishery so they can be more efficient when entering and exiting that fishery. For example they would not have to drop off extra gear at a tender or shore plant if they are fishing a dual permit.

The reason for putting extra gear in brailer bags is to not allow nets to be fished, round hauled and picked on deck while new gear is set back out. This practice harms fish quality and erodes economic viability for the fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I discussed this issue with several drift and set net fishermen who are interested in the quality of our harvest, and the long-term impact that round haul fish have on the ex-vessel price every year.

PROPOSED BY: By: Reid Ten Kley

(EF-F26-157)
