

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Adopt offshore locations used in the Nushagak District set gillnet fishery for the drift gillnet fishery, and prohibit drift gillnet gear from coming into contact with set gillnet gear , as follows:

06.331(n) sets a seaward limit for operation of set gillnets by establishing defined coordinates as the outer boundary. This set of coordinates should also function as a shoreward boundary for drift gillnets and related equipment, preventing drift boats and drift gillnets from entangling with set gillnets, lines, and other equipment.

Revised Section:

06.331(n) In the Nushagak District, and subject to (v) of this section, a CFEC salmon interim-use or entry permit holder may not set or operate a set gillnet seaward of set gillnets operated by another CFEC salmon interim-use or entry permit holder. In addition, no part of a set gillnet, anchor, peg, stake, buoy, or other device used to set the gillnet may be seaward of the following offshore locations; and no part of a drift vessel, gillnet, line, buoy, or other device used to drift a gillnet may be shoreward of the following offshore locations while the drift gillnet is in the water:

New Section:

(w) No part of a drift vessel, gillnet, line, buoy, or other device used to drift a gillnet may be operated so as to come into contact with a set gillnet, line, anchor, peg, stake, buoy, or other device used to operate the setnet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Drift boats and drift gillnets are being operated inside the coordinates defined in 06.331(n), which define the seaward limit for setnet operations along Ekuk Beach, and have often been entangled in setnets and setnet lines and gear. This entanglement endangers fishermen, damages setnets, running lines, anchors, pegs, stakes, buoys, and other devices and prevents continued operation of the setnet for at least 1 tide, and often longer depending on the size of the following low tides, creating a material loss of catch for the setnet operation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, I collaborated with fishermen on Ekuk Beach and will work with the Nushagak Advisory Committee to review this proposal at their convenience.

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