

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 06.358. Wood River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area Management Plan.

Increase the length of a set gillnet in the Wood River Special Harvest Area, as follows:

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(d) When the Wood River Special Harvest Area is open under this section, the following apply within the open waters:

(1) set gillnets may be operated only as follows:

(A) a set gillnet may not exceed **37.5** [25] fathoms in length;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Lengthen set gillnets in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) from 25 fathoms to 37.5 fathoms. This would mirror what's already allowed in the Naknek River Special Harvest Area (NRSHA) under 5 AAC 06.360. When the WRSOA was originally created, openings were concurrent with drift fishers. It made sense then to have shorter set gillnets because the drift fleet was fishing at the same time. When regulations changed in 2012 to have separate gear openings, the need to reduce gear conflict went away. Since the WRSOA is primarily used to harvest surplus salmon, additional gear would help to maximize harvest. The WRSOA also allows for more room between set gillnets (250' vs 150') compared to the NRSHA, making even more room for these longer nets.

- a) What would happen if nothing is changed? Setnetters in the WRSOA would continue to fish with 25 fathoms, but would lose fishing opportunity they might have if allowed to fish 37.5 fathoms like setnetters in the NRSHA.
- b) What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? None

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, discussions were had amongst various Nushagak setnetters who were all in favor.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Rollman, Levi Rollman, Rick Wysocki, and Bert Luckhurst (EF-F26-125)
