

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Increase offshore operation distance for set gillnets in Ugashik District, as follows:

Increase maximum offshore operation distance for set gillnets in Ugashik District, as follows:

(m)(8) [in the Ugashik District, in that portion of the east bank of the Ugashik River from a point at 57° 30.74'N lat., 157° 24.10'W. Long. To 57° 32.27' N. lat., 157° 24.36'W. long., no part of a set gillnet may be more than 800 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An extensive mudbank is continuing to develop along the inshore end of our area in which we fish our set gillnets. This impedes us from fishing as effectively as we have in the past(decrease in functional fishing time). The current offshore distance limitation of 800 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark precludes us from fishing the full extent of our allowable gear and denies us the efficient use of the fishing time allowed. We continue to lose opportunities due to fewer hours of available fishing time because our nets are not in the water.

In 2016 the BOF adopted the “criteria for Board Deliberations on Commercial Set Gillnet Proposals Impacted by Coastal Erosion” (2016-238-FB) which outlines the criteria that the board will consider and weigh when deliberating on a proposal related to set gillnet sites impacted by coastal erosion. The case stated above clearly fits Criteria #1 which states that issues that arise from land that has either eroded or accreted through natural or artificial causes contiguous to the leasehold.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed with the help of the Ugashik Village Set Netters.

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