

PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow joint venture set gillnet fishing operations in Bristol Bay, as follows:

Add new regulation: 5 AAC 39.2XX. Joint Venture Set-net Fishing Operations.

(a) In Bristol Bay, two salmon set gillnet CFEC permit holders may form a Joint Venture and combine their gear under the following conditions:

- (1) a Joint Venture permit must be obtained from a local representative of the department before a Joint Venture may start operations;
- (2) only one Joint Venture permit per year will be issued for each Joint Venture;
- (3) the Joint Venture permit must be signed by both CFEC permit holders and each must have a copy of the Joint Venture permit readily available for inspection;
- (4) the Joint Venture permit may be canceled by the department upon the request of one of the Joint Venture operators;
- (5) the gear and site markers required by 5 AAC 39.280 must bear the five-digit CFEC permit serial number of both permit holders;
- (6) no single set gillnet may exceed the regulatory maximum length prescribed in regulation for the applicable fishing area,
- (7) a Joint Venture may operate no more than the regulatory maximum amount of gear per CFEC permit allowable for the applicable fishing area; and
- (8) both parties of the Joint Venture are legally responsible for the operation of all gear of the Joint Venture.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the opportunity for Joint Venture (JV) set-net operations in Alaska commercial fisheries is limited to the Kodiak area under 5 AAC 18.331. This provision has been a useful tool for Kodiak set-net harvesters from which other set-net harvesters can benefit.

JV operations, where one permit holder may deliver fish harvested under a partnered permit holder's CFEC permit, can help communities and fleets respond to economic, geographic, and logistical constraints while improving product quality and revenue.

Extending this provision to Bristol Bay set netters would give small-scale family operations greater flexibility in tailoring harvest strategies particularly in remote or under-capitalized areas. The limitation to two CFEC permits per JV adheres to the limited entry program's owner-operator intent while providing this flexibility.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed in parallel with the discussions surrounding HB 117 and the request for clarification in delivery norms and requirements from impacted set-net fleets.

PROPOSED BY: Jamie O'Connor

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