

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations.

Increase the overall length of vessels registered for salmon net fishing in Bristol Bay, as follows:

Change 5 AAC 06.341(a) and (b)(6) to read as follows:

(2) No vessel registered for salmon net fishing may be more than **34 feet, 2 inches** [32 feet] in overall length. [An anchor roller may not extend more than eight inches beyond the 32-foot overall length, and any portion that extends beyond the 32-foot overall length may not be more than eight inches in width or height.]

(3) For the purposes of this section,

(1) "anchor roller" means a device used solely in aid of deploying and retrieving anchor gear, and does not provide any additional flotation, planing surface, or structural support to the vessel;

(4) "fish drop-out basket" means a device used solely to prevent the loss of fish from a gillnet after the fish leaves the water and before it is brought on board the vessel; a "fish drop-out basket" does not provide any additional flotation, planing surface, or structural support to the vessel;

(5) "gillnet roller" means a device used solely in aid of deploying and retrieving drift gillnet gear; a "gillnet roller" does not provide any additional flotation or planing surface to the vessel;

(6) "outdrive" means part of the propulsion system of a vessel used for either steering or thrust; an "outdrive" does not provide any additional flotation or planing surface to the vessel;

(7) "outdrive guard" means a device of skeletal construction used solely to protect the outdrive unit of a vessel; an "outdrive guard" does not provide any additional flotation or planing surface and is not used for any other purpose such as a bench, platform, or storage area;

(8) "overall length" means the straight-line measurement between the extremities of the vessel [but does not include fish drop-out baskets, anchor rollers, gillnet rollers, trim tabs,] **excluding** outdrives **and** [or] outdrive guards;

(9) "trim tabs" means an extension of the bottom of a vessel, at the transom, which is no more than 18 inches long at its longest point; "trim tabs" do not provide any increased flotation, and their sole function is to provide trim to a vessel while underway.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the drift gillnet vessel overall length to 34 feet, 2 inches, exclusive of outdrives and outdrive guards.

The 32' limit is an original regulation, implemented when most Bristol Bay drift vessels were made of wood. These regulations were modified first in 1981, then nine years later in 1990, then eight years after in 1998. It is now 2025, and **it has been 27 years since the last modification to 5 AAC 06.341.**

The situation as it currently exists:

Since AAC 06.341 was first written, vessel design has improved to include anchor rollers, fish drop out baskets, gillnet rollers, outdrives, outdrive guards, trim tabs and several other extremities. Some of these are defined in 5 AAC 06.341. Despite the definitions being written as clearly as possible at the time, confusion about enforceability currently exists.

Situation if this proposal were enacted:

Changing the overall boat length from 32 feet to 34 feet, 2 inches adds 26 inches inclusive of extremities which have been agreed upon by previous BOF decisions. All other non-flotational extremities should be inclusive of that length **except for the outdrive units and the outdrive guard.**

This situation will provide clarity for existing vessels, new builds, and address enforcement concerns.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Marinkovich

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