

PROPOSAL 91

5 AAC 06.341. Vessel specifications and operations.

Amend the definition of an outdrive guard, as follows:

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

(5) "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, **but may have horizontal platforms used solely for safe access to the "outdrive" equipment;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow horizontal platforms on "outdrive guards" for the purpose of safe access to the outdrive.

The "outdrive" provides thrust and propulsion to a vessel, with either propellers or jet propulsion. No matter what the circumstance, this essential piece of machinery protrudes from the stern of the vessel, to varying lengths, sometimes greater than four-feet from the transom.

The "outdrive guard" is necessary to keep the net from tangling with the outdrive, and to protect the outdrive from damage from other vessels. The outdrive guard must be of smooth material so the gillnet can pass over it and not snag, yet it must be strong enough to withstand impact from other vessels. To accommodate this, most outdrive guards are made from heavy-built aluminum pipe between 6" to 10" in diameter.

Even though the outdrive guard does a great job of keeping the net away from the outdrive, the net or towline sometimes become tangled in the outdrive, or there may be a mechanical issue that demands repair. Either way, it is not uncommon for the skipper or a crew member to climb down onto the outdrive guard to service the drive during these at-sea emergency situations. This often happens at an unexpected moment, and the job must be completed in whatever weather conditions exist.

An outdrive guard is generally built of 6" to 10" in diameter aluminum, is very slippery, and in its "skeletal" form offers nothing to hang onto if a person has climbed upon it to access the outdrive. A horizontal platform built upon the outdrive guard will provide safe access to the outdrive, and is an absolutely necessary safety concern.

The situation as it currently exists:

Most every vessel in Bristol Bay that has an outdrive protruding from its stern has an outdrive guard of some sort. Most of these already have horizontal platforms from which a person can access the outdrive. These safety-necessities are not currently compliant with 5 ACC 06.341

Situation if this proposal were enacted:

Nobody would have to remove their horizontal platform from their outdrive guard (if they have one on their vessel). This proposal will provide clarity for

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

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