

RC 089

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### Bristol Bay Finfish PROPOSAL 29

I am in support of Proposal 29 that allows a set gillnet permit holder to operate and deploy gear seaward of the permit holder's own set gillnet, and within the permit holder's own setnet site.

This proposal does not extend the setnet site, nor does it add additional gear to the water.

Two years ago, a King Salmon Enforcement Officer informed me that the setnet gear (which was separated into two 25 fathom sections on one running line/site) had to be connected in one continuous 50 fathom net. I was told that if the setnet was separated into two 25 fathom sections, the sections would need to be 300 feet apart or the permit holder could be ticketed. I was not the only setnetter informed of the potential for a ticket.

The regulation that the enforcement officer cited was 5 AAC 06.335 "no part of a set gillnet may be set or operated within 300 feet of any part of another set gillnet."

I have fished a setnet in the Egegik District for over 40 years. It has been common practice over several generations of my family, to separate the 50 fathom net into two 25 fathom sections. This separation allows the skiff to work one 25 fathom at a time.

The gap in between the two 25 fathom nets:

- Allows a blank spot for the skiff to pick-up or pull-out of the gear
- Decreases damage to the web from maneuvering out of the gear
- Increases safety during rough weather operation of the gear

My interpretation of the regulation differed from the enforcement officer's. No part of the current regulation states that the setnet has to be operated as a continuous 50 fathom net. I believe 5 AAC 06.335's wording "within 300 feet of any part of another set gillnet" was intended to separate two different permit holder's gear. My interpretation of the regulation does not remove the potential for a ticket, so I submitted this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal.

Laura Zimin