

PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 27.832. Seine specifications and operations for Bristol Bay Area.
Change the regulatory description for herring purse seine and hand purse seine, as follows:

5 AAC 27.832(a)(2) is amended to read:

(a) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine

...

(2) may not be more than **630** [625] meshes in depth [, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 600 MESHES MAY HAVE A MESH SIZE LARGER THAN ONE AND ONE-HALF INCHES].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Before 1998, gear specifications and operations for both herring gillnet and seine gear appeared in 5 AAC 27.831. At that time the provision was worded as follows:

(d) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 100 fathoms in length and not more than 625 meshes in depth, of which 600 meshes may not have a mesh size larger than one and one-half inches.

In 1998, when the seine specifications and operations were moved into their own section under 5 AAC 27.832, the text was changed to read as it currently reads in 5 AAC 27.832(a):

(a) A herring purse seine or hand purse seine

(1) may not exceed 100 fathoms in length; and

(2) may not be more than 625 meshes in depth, of which no more than 600 meshes may have a mesh size larger than one and one-half inches.

This changed the regulation from allowing a net to have no more than 25 meshes over one and one-half inches to allowing 600 meshes to be over one and one-half inches. The regulation appears to have changed inadvertently during the editing process. This proposal would correct this error and incorporate industry practices in building purse seines. Industry practices use 200.5 mesh strips to construct the base net. This net is then attached at the top and bottom to cork and lead lines with additional meshes. The number of meshes used at the top and bottom varies but can total 25. So to allow for the additional half meshes in the base strips it seemed appropriate to change the total number of meshes to 630. The industry standard is for a mesh size of one and one-half inches.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-008)
