

PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation. Modify gear operation in the Kuskokwim River by limiting four-inch mesh subsistence gear to one gillnet per household, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 01.270 is amended to read:

When 4” mesh restrictions are in place for the purpose of king salmon conservation, there is an additional limitation of only one (1) net per household;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2010, the Kuskokwim River has experienced a decline in king salmon returns, with 2013 having the lowest total run and escapement on record, and 2014 seeing the implementation of unprecedented subsistence fishing restrictions for Kuskokwim Chinook salmon. A 4” mesh, 60’ net allowance was made in order to give people an opportunity to fish for other resident species to have some opportunity for “fresh fish on the table”, but was not meant to be used for the targeting of king salmon. It has been observed and reported on numerous occasions that some have abused this opportunity by having multiple (2-5) legal nets in the water to increase their chances of “incidental” take of king salmon during their run. At fisheries meetings this winter many resident fishermen also expressed great concern for perceived increase in mortality to kings from encountering the greatly increased numbers of 4” inch mesh nets in the water.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsarmiut Native Council

(HQ-F15-107)
