

**PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 21.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Limit the depth of all set gillnet gear in Upper Subdistrict of the Central District to no more than 29 meshes deep, as follows:

Limit the depth of set gillnets used in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District to no more than 29 meshes.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** East Side set net fisheries targeting sockeye continue to harvest significant numbers of king salmon despite a 40 year-old Board of Fisheries directive to minimize the harvest of Kenai River late-run king salmon [5 AAC 21.360]. Research conducted at the request of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and widespread experience of set net fishermen both demonstrate that fishing with shallower set net gear will more selectively harvest large numbers of sockeye with reduced harvest of king salmon. Most fishermen currently use 45 mesh depth gear. A maximum net depth of 29 meshes is currently thought to provide the best efficiency for harvesting sockeye while avoiding kings.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenai River Sportfishing Association (HQ-F16-067)

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