

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 24.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Modify purse seine gear length in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

(a) Except for the first 5 fathoms in length of the purse seine, a purse seine may not be less than 200 meshes or more than 335 meshes in depth, or less than 125 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms [150 fathoms] in length, hung measure, or with mesh size greater than four inches stretch measure, except that the first 25 meshes immediately above or below the leadline may be a chafing strip with a mesh size no larger than seven and one-half inches stretch measure. Leads deeper than the seine or exceeding 75 fathoms in length, or leads with a mesh size less than six and one-quarter inches may not be used, except as specified in 5AAC 39.260 ***ADD*** The aggregate of seine and lead may not be more than 225 fathoms in length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulation requiring the use of a lead to achieve the legal gear length is outdated. As it is, most fishermen fish with a sewn on lead, ultimately turning the net into a single piece of gear which can be fished with either end on the beach versus with a "loose lead" that is virtually always on the beach end. Fishing a lead requires two different types of netting, lead web can be difficult to get, sometimes taking several months to receive. It would be much more convenient to use standard seine web for the entirety of the net which means standard mending twine, carrying standard sized patch web. Simple as a drive to your local net supplier. Additionally the larger mesh size in the lead can be detrimental in late season clean up fisheries when salmon lose their fear of barriers, plungers etc. At this late stage in the return, pink salmon will often swim right through the large lead mesh hindering clean up of excess fish and contributing to the build up of dark fish. This proposal would not require the use of seine web for the full length of the net but would allow for the option. Some comparisons of seine specifications from other fisheries are as follows. This proposal if adopted would be the same as the Chignik specifications for length.

	PWS	Chignik	Area M	Kodiak	Southeast	LCI
Seine	150	225	250	200	250	250
lead	75	75	150	50	75	0
total	225	225	400	250	325	250

It should be noted some areas restrict the use of the lead to only be deployed on the bunt end of the seine. Since these areas already provide for an effective length of seine the additional lead allowance is often used sparingly

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(EF-F17-009)
