

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 05.333. Fish wheel specifications and operations.

Adopt maximum size and depth restrictions for fish wheel baskets, as follows:

5 AAC 05.333 Fish wheel specifications and operations.

(a) (1) fish wheel baskets may not be larger than 5' X 8' or 40 square foot total area and cannot dip deeper than six feet into the river.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Implementing fish wheel basket size and depth limitations during times of Chinook Salmon conservation on the Yukon River. Fish wheels are self propelled large dipping baskets and paddles that dip salmon and other fish species out of the river that are lead into the baskets by way of leads, leads lead salmon from the shore (shallow water) directly out to the baskets where they are captured and dumped automatically into holding bins without human exertion.

If nothing is done, commercial fishers in districts 4 - 6 using fish wheels will continue to commercially harvest large numbers of summer chum salmon with little or no physical effort. I don't think it is equitable for commercial fishers from districts 1 - 3 to have to manually dip baskets into the river with only a 5' diameter hoop and basket to try and commercially harvest surplus summer chum salmon while allowing chinook salmon to pass up the river to spawning grounds.

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