

PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Increase the maximum length of purse seines from 225 to 250 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, as follows:

Change the regulation concerning maximum purse seine length in Chignik in the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts to match those allowed in Kodiak and Area M. The new regulation would read:

5 AAC 15.332 (a) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than **250** (225) fathoms in length may be used.

(b) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no hand purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than **250** (225) fathoms in length may be used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations in effect in Chignik under 5 AAC 15.332 (a), (b) which restricts purse seine length to a maximum of 225 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts. This limitation hampers efficiency and results in lost harvest opportunity for Chignik fishermen. The heavy interception that occurs on Chignik bound sockeye at Cape Igvak and throughout Area M often results in drastically lower numbers of sockeye entering the Chignik area in the days immediately after those interception fisheries are prosecuted. The gaps in the Chignik sockeye run created by those interception fisheries moves through the Chignik area from the outer districts inward toward Chignik Lagoon, resulting in reduced harvests and thus even further reduced harvest efficiency. To add insult to injury, the Kodiak and Area M seine fisheries are allowed to use purse seines that are 250 fathoms in length while fishing for Chignik bound sockeye within plain sight of Chignik fishermen who are restricted to 225 fathom purse seines.

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