

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

Allow the commissioner to limit Central District drift gillnets to less than 150 and 200 fathoms in length and 29 meshes in depth, as follows:

Amend the regulation to provide management authority to ADF&G to limit net length to less than 150 and 200 fathoms and net depth to 29 rather than 45 inches.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? By regulation, a commercial drift gillnet in the Central District commercial fishery may not be more than 150 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. The sole exception as specified in 5 AAC 21.333 which allows two Cook Inlet drift gillnet CFEC permit holders to fish concurrently from the same vessel and jointly operate 200 fathoms of drift gillnet gear, and a person holding two permits may operate 200 fathoms of gear. Current regulations do not allow for ADF&G to limit drift gillnets to shorter lengths or depths. This limits the management flexibility to provide for additional fishing opportunities under conditions when a full drift net fishery risks overharvest of specific salmon stocks, particularly during periods of low abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai River Sportfishing Association

(HQ-F19-126)
