

David Martin, Chair
Central Peninsula AC

RC 192

This is a Petition not a Record Copy

Petition to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

I am petitioning the Alaska Board of Fisheries to amend the new language that was adopted, when approving Proposal 133, in 5 AAC 21.353. Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan.

The language I am petitioning to add to this newly adopted plan is the bold underlined language.

The changes to the existing plan are as follows: (A)(iv) Drift Gillnet Area 1; (e) From August 1 through August 15, (1) fishing during both regular 12 hour fishing periods per week will be restricted to one or more of the following sections and areas: (A) Expanded Kenai Section: (B) Expanded Kasilof Section: (C) Anchor Point Section: (D) Drift Gillnet Area 1: **(E) Area 3**, except that if the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is closed under 5AAC 21.310(b)(2)(C)9iii), or the department determines that less than one percent of the seasons total drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the drift gillnet fishery, regular fishing periods will be restricted to Drift Gillnet Area 3 and 4. (2) additional fishing time under this subsection is allowed only in one or more of the following sections: (A) Expanded Kenai Section: (B) Expanded Kasilof Section: (C) Anchor Point Section. (f) From August 16 until closed by emergency order, Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for fishing during regular fishing periods.

Drift area 3 is described in regulation as:

5AAC 21.353 (g) (3) "Drift Gillnet Area 3" means those waters of the Central District within one mile of mean lower low water (zero tide) south of a point on the West Foreland at 60 degrees 27.10 minutes N. lat., 151 degrees 42.30 minutes W. long.;

In the month of August, especially the first two weeks of August, this area traditionally harvest local salmon stocks of the Kustatan River, Drift River, Big River, Cannery Creek and other west side anadromous salmon systems. Not being able to fish in Area 3 between August 1 and August 15 would forego the harvest of these local stocks that have their peak run timing this first two weeks of August. The fishermen participating are local residents and the fleet is small, five to thirty boats.

The objective that was stated for adopting the new plan: for moving Northern bound salmon stocks through the center of the Central District Area 2, to the Northern District, does not apply to this area 3. These are local salmon stocks.

I am requesting the Board of Fisheries add **Area 3** to the plan they adopted.