

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Provide the department authority to allow drift gillnets of up to 90 meshes in depth to be used in the District 11 drift gillnet fishery beginning in SW 34, as follows:

b) In the Southeastern Alaska Area, a drift gillnet may not be more than 60 meshes in depth, except that there is no maximum depth restriction for a gillnet operated for king salmon cost recovery by a private nonprofit hatchery operator or under contract to a regional aquaculture association in a special harvest area described in 5 AAC 40.030 - 5 AAC 40.081.

(1) in district 11, beginning statistical week 34, at the departments discretion, by emergency order, a drift gill net may not be more than 90 meshes in depth.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The United States has shown an inability to harvest their allowable catch afforded them by the Pacific Salmon Commission Treaty Annex for coho on the Taku River. The current tools only allow increased time and area, which is useful, but use of these tools has not increased catches significantly, as coho tend to travel deeper in the water column. Having deeper nets may increase stakeholders ability to harvest these valuable fish. Adoption of this proposal will give the department a valuable tool for harvesting the United States gillnet allowable catch of PSC treaty Taku coho in times of high abundance.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

(HQ-F20-121)
