

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.

Allow the use of fishing rods in conjunction with downriggers by hand trollers, as follows:

The new regulation would omit the downrigger restrictions and simply state:

"(B) from each fishing rod: only one line with no more than one leader and one lure or two baited hooks per leader"

OR

"(B) from each fishing rod: only one line with no more than one leader and one lure or two baited hooks per leader; no more than one fishing rod may be attached to a downrigger"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations (b) (2) (B) states:

"(B) from each fishing rod: only one line with no more than one leader and one lure or two baited hooks per leader; a downrigger may not be used in conjunction with a fishing rod"

The specific issue to address is the unnecessary restrictions placed on hand trollers by prohibiting the use of downriggers in conjunction with fishing rods. Downriggers are simply a mechanism to control the depth of the hooks. Accurately controlling depth is a key part of targeting fish species, especially during chinook openings. It is an unfair and unnecessary restriction, especially to those that are starting out in the hand troll fishery or those that are fishing from vessels that cannot be, or cannot easily be, equipped with hand troll gurdies. If the concern is somehow the ability to use the downrigger for multiple lines, I have also included alternative language that could be adopted.

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(EF-F20-038)
