

PROPOSAL 122

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

Repeal the 'one percent rule' in the Central District drift gillnet fishery as follows:

5 AAC 21.353. (4) (E) (3) (B).

Delete " The department determines that less than one percent of the season's total drift gillnet Sockeye salmon harvest has been taken per fishing period for two consecutive fishing periods in the drift gill net fishery."

By removing the language from this section, it would allow the drift fishery to remain open in whatever waters we are permitted to fish in until August 15th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove this restriction from the regulations. This restriction does not allow for harvest of available surpluses in salmon stocks should a surplus be available. The reduced fleet participation and lack of effort after August 1st makes it virtually impossible to meet this threshold. The remaining vessels still engaged in the fishery after August 1st are predominately local owners. It is a chance for local owners to continue to fish without a significant impact to any one stock. The regulation also does not take into account late arriving runs and the pulses that naturally occur in every fishery.

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(EF-F23-048)
