

PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 21.359 Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the amount of set gillnet gear that can be used in the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery when restricted to achieve the Kenai River late-run king salmon optimal escapement goal as follows:

up to four set gillnets that are each not more than **50 fathoms in length, 200** fathoms in aggregate length, and **22 meshes in** depth, or two set gillnets that are each not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more **than 22 meshes** in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter; or

up to two set gillnets that are each not more than **50 fathoms in length and 22 meshes** in depth or one set gillnet that is not more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth; set gillnets used that are not more **than 22 meshes** in depth must be identified at the end of the gillnet with an attached blue buoy that is not less than nine and one-half inches in diameter.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is an opportunity to utilize the 600 foot fishery when there is concern of Kenai River Chinook salmon harvest. A tool the department has to reduce chinook harvest while allowing for limited sockeye harvest opportunity is the 600 foot fishery. We can expand on this fishery by further modifications of set gill nets. Sockeye run in the top portion of the water column while king salmon are known to run in the bottom portion of the water column. The beach nets are already an effective tool to harvest sockeye salmon that minimizes chinook salmon significantly.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Norman

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