

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 01.670. Lawful gear and specifications.

Repeal net tending requirement in Yakutat Bay, as follows:

Repeal the new restrictions that require subsistence fishers to be at the set net site at all times. Most subsistence fishers place their nets close to their homes where they can leave a skiff anchored close to the net and attend it regularly during the day.

Repeal the new restrictions (5 AAC 01.670) and manage subsistence fishing the same as commercial fishing, by requiring fishers to be at the set gillnet **site** at all times.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Proposal to repeal new restrictions requiring subsistence salmon fishing permit holder to attend set net gillnets, at all times, in Yakutat Bay.

The new restrictions in Yakutat Bay require subsistence users to attend gill nets at all times, in April and May, has almost completely eliminated the spring king harvest for subsistence users. Subsistence fishers catch on average less than 1 fish per day with most coming over night. Fishers cannot reasonably sit on nets all day and all night to catch less than 1 fish.

The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe believes the Board of Fisheries did not consider or expect this change in regulations to almost eliminate subsistence harvest of spring Kings. The Kings harvested in April and May are one of the most important subsistence foods taken by local residents.

This loss of spring Kings to our tribal members fails to provide the priority for subsistence the law requires. While subsistence users suffer the loss on average of 200 Kings annually, a newly established troll fishery is harvesting the same fish on a 1,000 fish quota, and the commercial set gill net fishery is not required to attend nets at all times, even though fish are much more abundant during the fishery. They are only required to be at the set net site. This is no way to provide a priority for subsistence.

Most tribal members were not aware that these restrictions were being considered. The local Fish and Game Advisory Committee did a poor job informing the public on such an important proposal. The committee failed to adequately inform the public.

If this problem is not solved: Our tribal members and other subsistence users will continue to be denied one of the most important subsistence foods harvested by this community. The subsistence lifestyle treasured by this community will forever be damaged.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

(EF-F20-101, HQ-F20-128)
