

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 24.3XX. New section.

Create requirements and specifications for use of 250 fathoms of seine gear in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 54.332 (ADD) **except as specified in 5 AAC (NEW CODE #).**

5 AAC (NEW CODE #) Requirements and specifications for use of a 250 fathom seine in Prince William Sound.

a) 2 CFEC permits present on and registered to the same vessel may operate 250 fathoms of seine.

b) all other specifications in 5AAC.54.332 remain in effect

c) the additional 25 fathoms shall have cork colors other than white or yellow.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The seine fishery in Prince William Sound is over capitalized and overcrowded. It is common for openings to be very restricted in area. Lineups can and do reach over 100 boats giving a primary set every third day. There are two major factors contributing to the current situation; a) fish prices aren't keeping up with the increasing operating costs, fuel, insurance, repairs, supplies etc. b) management is different now than in the 70's and 80's when full participation was the norm. It was standard for the majority of the sound to be open on a regular schedule of 5 days per week, Monday thru Friday, allowing boats to spread out. Presently 2-4 openings with a duration of 12-14 hours each with restricted area is the norm. I believe this solution would help ease congestion and provide incentive for new entrants to partner up with existing participants and for existing participants to purchase a second permit. I also believe this would encourage existing two permit holders to retain those permits.

PROPOSED BY: Rob Nelson

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