

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Amend Gillnet specifications and operations to reduce commercial salmon harvest in the North Peninsula using gillnet depth reductions, as follows:

Please consider reducing the max mesh depth for Area M North Peninsula from 70 meshes deep to a maximum of 45 meshes deep.

Deeper nets drag the bottom farther off the beach, fish don't have a chance to go under the net to return to their rivers and lakes.

Nets dragging the bottom slow when drifting. Nets have a greater chance to snag the bottom resulting in a 200ft set net.

Who would it effect: all Area M North Peninsula fishermen that choose to fish a 70 mesh net..

Who would benefit: all Area M North Peninsula salmon trying to return through 100 miles of deep net.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nelson Lagoon River has been struggling to meet minimum escapement and seasonal harvests are dismal. There is a large fleet who fish above Nelson River and we are witnessing the negative effects it is causing our fishery. I am a generational fisherman and have lived in Nelson Lagoon my entire life. I was brought up fishing in Nelson River and have been observing the changes over the years. Things aren't like they were before and I think maybe if there was less net in the water it might make a difference.

I propose to lessen the amount of net in the water in Area M North peninsula to the way it was before.

PROPOSED BY: Angela Johnson

(EF-F22-092)
