

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 06.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Increase maximum offshore operation distance for set gillnets in Ugashik District, as follows:

We propose that the maximum offshore distance be increased from 600 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark to 800 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark. Increasing the offshore distance allowed will enable the set gillnets in this area to effectively fish their historic fishing time as determined by the tides of the day. The eleven sites currently fishing in this area would all have the ability to fish farther offshore negating any allocative effects potentially arising from this solution. At the time of the submittal of this proposal ten out of the eleven sites concur that the maximum offshore distance should be amended by the board to 800 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark.

Draft language:

5AAC 06.331(m) (8) in the Ugashik District, in that portion of the east bank of the UGashik River from a point at 57° 32.27’ N. lat., 157° 24.36’ W. long., no part of a set gillnet may be more than (600) **800** feet from the 18-foot high tide mark.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the last four seasons an extensive mudbank has developed along the inshore end of our area in which we fish our set gillnets. This impedes us from fishing as effectively as we have in the past (decrease in functional fishing time). The current offshore distance limitation of 600 feet from the 18-foot high tide mark precludes us from fishing the full extent of our allowable gear and denies us the efficient use of the fishing time allowed. We have lost an estimated 20% of our opportunity due to fewer hours of available fishing time because our nets are not in the water.

In 2016 the BOF adopted the “Criteria for Board Deliberations on Commercial Set Gillnet Proposals Impacted by Coastal Erosion” (2016-238-FB) which outlines the criteria that the board will consider and weigh when deliberating on a proposal related to set gillnet sites impacted by coastal erosion. The case stated above clearly fits Criteria #1 which states that issues that arise from land that has either eroded or accreted through natural or artificial causes contiguous to the leasehold.

PROPOSED BY: Ugashik Village Set Netters

(HQ-F22-017)
