

**PROPOSAL 34**

**5 AAC 06.335. Minimum distance between units of gear.**

Increase minimum distance between units of drift and set gillnet gear in the Ugashik District, as follows:

*The following regulation would become 5 AAC 06.335 (d)*

(d) In the Ugashik Bay district, no drift gillnet may be operated within 1000 ft of the 18 ft high tide line on all waters south of a line from Cape Greig at 57° 43.54' N. lat., 157° 41.82' W. long., to a point approximately one mile offshore at 57° 43.54' N. lat., 157° 43.80' W. long., then east of a line from 57° 43.54' N. lat., 157° 43.80' W. long. to Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long. during the regulatory season.

*The following regulation would become 5 AAC 06.335 (e).*

(e) No part of a drift gillnet may block navigable waters for other boats underway in or out of Dago Creek, on all waters north of a line from approximately 57° 36.70' N. lat., 157° 36.75' W. long., to 57° 36.53' N. lat., 157° 36.75' W. long. during the regular

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

- (a) *I would like to address the safety and protection of set-gillnetters persons & gear. Many drift gillnetters have no concern for how close they fish to set gillnets in the Ugashik district because of limited law enforcement protection. In a frenzy, many drift gillnets ignore the 300' from side and 100' from offshore end of set gillnet minimum distance requirements (5 AAC 06.335b), and run over with boats or drift over setnet nets running lines and buoys and anchors, sometimes destroying setnet gear and/or causing great danger to setnetters trying to operate their gear along the beaches out to the regulatory 1000 ft. boundary for setnetters.*
- (b) *Setnetters pay annual leases to the State of Alaska and must remain within 1000' of the 18' high tide mark (5 AAC 06.331m), and cannot fish outside of 1000' of the beach while drifters pay no fees wherever they fish.*
- (c) *There is limited or minimum law enforcement protection in the Ugashik fishing district. Knowing this, many drifters ignore the minimum distance regulations and fish too close to setnetters.*
- (d) *Without land references on the seaward side it is difficult for setnetters to produce pictures or videos for enforcement to use in complaints.*
- (e) *While fishing just outside and inside of Dago Creek fishboats with their nets out completely block all navigable waters to the entrance of Dago Creek. This causes danger and stress of captains trying to navigate in the narrow channel using this waterway to deliver fish to the tenders anchored outside in the main river. It also blocks tender, barge service and emergency personnel trying to go in and out of Dago Creek, the only navigable waters during low tide conditions to reach shore services and the airport facilities for medivacs.*

**PROPOSED BY:** Gust Sonny Griechen

(HQ-F22-074)

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