

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 33.398. Use of aircraft unlawful. .

Modify regulations to make it unlawful to use aircraft for locating salmon during any open commercial purse seine fishing period.

5 AAC 33.398 (b) during an open commercial purse seine fishing period, [FOR AN AREA OTHER THAN A TERMINAL HARVEST AREA,] a person may not use an aircraft to locate salmon for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial salmon fishing operations one hour before, during, and one hour after an open commercial purse seine fishing period.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Make the use of aircraft spotting/directing illegal, during all active fishing periods, in the Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery. Currently, unmanned aircraft are illegal in all areas of SEAK for the use of fish spotting and manned aircraft are illegal in all areas except for hatchery THAs. This creates a loophole where a plane that was flying and legally spotting at a THA, could fly back to town to refuel or grab parts, but on the way, spot for vessels that are fishing in non-THA areas. This is currently unenforceable and allows for gray area within the regulations. The use of aircraft for spotting fish during all commercial purse seine fishing periods should not be allowed.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-060)
