

**PROPOSAL 313 (formerly ACR 8)**

**5 AAC 21.382. Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan.**

Add set beach seine nets as legal gear under the *Kenai River late-run king salmon stock of concern management plan* (5AAC 21.382).

Add set beach seine nets as an alternative gear type in the ESSN as follows:

5 AAC 21.382 (g)

(6) From June 20 through August 15:

(A) allow for the use of one set beach seine net as an alternative gear type for holders of a SO4H commercial set gillnet CFEC permit; for use with shore based setnet infrastructure.

(B) if set beach seine nets are operated when commercial fishing in the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District is open to SO4H permit holders for set gillnet gear, the CFEC permit holder operating the set beach seine net will not be allowed to fish gillnet gear for that CFEC permit.

(D) openings will be three days per week and may occur outside of specified openings in this section based on abundance of sockeye salmon, as announced by emergency order.

(E) fishing with a set beach seine net may occur only from shore; fishing from shore must occur at the location of a shore fishery tract identified in the recorded plat for that AS 38.05.082 lease or a City of Kenai issued lease; or historic beach staked gillnet locations, nothing in this subsection affects or changes the terms or conditions of an AS 38.05.02 or City of Kenai lease and its lessee.

(F) set beach seine nets may be up to 100 fathoms in length, 215 mesh deep including border and chaffing strips, up to 10 lb lead lines and maximum 3 ½ inch mesh size.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Upper Subdistrict Eastside set gillnet fishery (ESSN) has been completely closed for two consecutive years for king salmon conservation and because an economically viable live release gear type was not available. The closures have resulted in the loss of their historical allocation of sockeye salmon, surplus sockeye salmon above escapement goals in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers, and significant economic loss to the local community that was partially supported by the ESSN fishery. The Board of Fish (BOF) added dipnets as a gear type in 2024, while some beaches experienced success at times during the season this gear type alone is not enough to approach historical levels of harvest and economic stability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian G. Gabriel Sr. and Lisa Gabriel

(HQ-F24-ACR8)

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