

PROPOSAL 315 (formerly ACR 14)

5 AAC 18.331 Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow CFEC salmon set gillnet permit holders who form a joint venture in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District to operate 25 fathoms additional set gillnet gear (5 AAC 18.331).

To update the regulation, the language in 5 AAC 18.331, section e, # 6 and # 7 would be changed to reflect the new allowed amount of gear for setnetters in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District. This would read:

(6) no single set gillnet may be more than 150 fathoms in length; except that in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, no single set gillnet may be more than 175 fathoms in length;

(7) a joint venture may operate no more than three set gillnets, with no more than 300 fathoms of gillnet gear in the aggregate; except that in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, the aggregate length may be no more than 350 fathoms.

By updating the wording, the intent of the joint venture regulation, which is to allow two permit holders to work together to combine and fish their legally allowed gear, would be upheld.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the January 2024 Kodiak BOF meeting, a last minute change to regulation was adopted by the Board of Fish to add 25 fathoms of net per permit for setnetters in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District, changing the total net length from 150 fathoms to 175 fathoms per permit. However, the wording in the joint venture section of the regulations addressing Gillnet Specifications and Operations was not updated to reflect the additional 25 fathoms of gear allowed per setnet permit in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District.

The current (historic) joint venture regulation allows only: “5 AAC 18.331 (e) (6) no single set gillnet may be more than 150 fathoms in length; and (7) a joint venture may operate no more than three set gillnets, with no more than 300 fathoms of gillnet gear in the aggregate.” It is not updated to allow 175 fathoms in length and 350 fathoms in aggregate in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District.

By not updating the wording of the joint venture regulation to reflect the additional gear allowed setnetters in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak district, a problem was created where people who have joint ventures are unable to fish 50 fathoms of gear that all other permit holders in the Northwest Kodiak District have available to them. The joint venture regulations for Kodiak setnetters, adopted in 1985, were written to allow 2 permit holders to work together and combine gear without diminishing the length of the nets allowed. This allowed more flexibility for fishermen working together to configure their gear to optimize their unique sites. For example, joint venture participants could fish three (3) 100 fathom nets instead of being restricted to the more traditional split of 75 fathom nets.

If this is not corrected and stands as written in 1985, joint venture participants in the Central Section of the Northwest Kodiak District will be limited to 150 fathoms per net, not 175 fathoms

as granted by the Board of Fish in January, and will be limited to 300 fathoms in aggregate as opposed to the 350 fathoms.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Setnetters Association, Adelia Myrick (HQ-F24-ACR14)
