

(Note: This proposal was originally submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board as FP07-05. The Alaska Board of Fisheries accepted it for consideration in state regulation based on conservation, enforcement, or regulatory coordination concerns. The proposal has been scheduled for the December 2006 meeting.)

PROPOSAL 251 - 5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Create a new subsection that would allow the use of a drift gillnet on the Togiak River.

(xx) may use a drift gillnet no greater than 10 fathoms in length and 15 feet in depth to take salmon in the Togiak River.

ISSUE: Would allow subsistence users to catch salmon in a shorter time period.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status Quo.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Twin Hills Village Council, Twin Hills

(HQ-06-F-251)

(Note: This proposal was originally submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board as FP07-06. The Alaska Board of Fisheries accepted it for consideration in state regulation based on conservation, enforcement, or regulatory coordination concerns. The proposal has been scheduled for the December 2006 meeting.)

PROPOSAL 252 - 5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Create a new regulation that would allow the use of snagging, spear or arrow or bare hands to take salmon in Lake Clark and its tributaries.

(xx) Salmon may be taken in Lake Clark and its tributaries by snagging, spear, arrow, or by bare hands.

ISSUE: The purpose of this proposal is to allow residents from Nondalton, Ports Alsworth, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, and Newhalen to take salmon in Lake Clark by snagging, using a spear or arrow and capturing by bare hand. These methods have been traditionally used for capturing salmon and would expand the opportunities for residents without gillnets to harvest salmon for subsistence.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status quo.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, unlike gillnetting, these fishing methods are used to catch individual fish. This regulatory change will potentially benefit fish populations by reducing bycatch, over-harvesting and waste.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users. Gillnets are an expensive piece of fishing gear and many households cannot afford to purchase one. Allowing subsistence users to snag, use a spear or arrow or their bare hands to capture salmon will provide more opportunities using traditional methods to harvest salmon with relatively little equipment costs. It will enable subsistence users to get salmon to eat without hauling around a heavy gillnet to remote locations. It will also provide users with more selective means for harvesting individual fish and avoid taking more salmon than desired.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission (HQ-06-F-252)

(Note: This proposal was originally submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board as FP07-07. The Alaska Board of Fisheries accepted it for consideration in state regulation based on conservation, enforcement, or regulatory coordination concerns. The proposal has been scheduled for the December 2006 meeting.)

PROPOSAL 253 - 5 AAC 01.320. Lawful gear and gear specifications. Allow the use of beach seines in the Lake Clark and its tributaries.

(xx) salmon may be taken by beach seine in Lake Clark and its tributaries.

ISSUE: The purpose of this proposal is to allow residents from Nondalton, Ports Alsworth, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, and Newhalen to take salmon in Lake Clark by using a beach seine. Beach seining is a traditional fishing method that is preferred for harvesting salmon because, unlike gillnets, it is non-lethal and allows subsistence users to take the salmon they need and release the surplus.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status quo.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, since gillnets entangle and kill fish, the flesh of gillnet caught salmon is often bruised and blood shot and many fish are lost by dropping from the net before they can be retrieved. Using beach seines will improve the quality of the fish taken for subsistence and reduce waste resulting from dead fish dropping from gillnets. It may also reduce the bycatch of non-target species such as trout and whitefish by allowing subsistence fishers to select only the fish they want to keep and releasing those they don't.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The use of gillnets is perceived by many local residents as a wasteful and disrespectful method for harvesting salmon because it kills the fish it entangles and requires subsistence users to take whatever amount of salmon is caught, even if it's more than they can process and use. Use of beach seines will eliminate deadfall and wastage resulting from gillnets that are left untended for long periods of time. It will also improve the quality of the catch by reducing the number of fish that are too damaged to be used for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Beach seining is generally a non lethal method for capturing salmon that allows users to select the number of fish they want to harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission (HQ-06-F-253)

(The following proposal has been scheduled for the December 2006 meeting)

PROPOSAL 260 - 5 AAC 28.645. Aleutian Islands District Pollock Management Plan.

Amend this plan to coordinate the start date(s) and guideline harvest level accounting with the federal fishery as follows:

5 AAC 28.645. Aleutian Islands District Pollock Management Plan. (a) This management plan governs the directed harvest of pollock in that portion of the Aleutian Islands District between 174° W. long. and 178° W. long.

...

Option One – Provide for a fixed starting date.

Option Two – Allow for Emergency Order opening once experimental fishing permit is issued and the effect on the guideline harvest level is known.

Option Three – Link starting date to closure in other fishery.

...

ISSUE: The board adopted this management plan during its October 14-15, 2006 meeting. New information from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee has resulted in the board choosing to examine the start date of the fishery in order to better coordinate the starting date and the guideline harvest level accounting with the federal fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There would be a lack of coordination with the federal fishery on the start date and guideline harvest level accounting.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? NA

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? No one.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Three options are listed above.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries
