PROPOSAL 173
5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation. and 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Close Kuskokwim Area District 4 on Sundays and allow only one gillnet to be operated per vessel in the subsistence and commercial fisheries between June 1 and July 15, as follows:

5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operation.

In District 4, between June 1 and July 15, only one gillnet may be operated per boat. In District 4, the aggregate length of a set gillnet or drift gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms. In District 4, subsistence fishing for salmon will be closed on Sundays between June 1 and July 15.

5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

(a) A gillnet must have a mesh size of six inches or less and may not be more than 45 meshes in depth. **In District 4, between June 1 and July 15, only one gillnet may be operated per boat.** The aggregate length of a set gillnet or drift gillnet may not exceed 50 fathoms, except that if the commissioner determines that there is a harvestable surplus of salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the fishing season and immediately reopen a season during which the aggregate length of a set gillnet or drift gillnet may not exceed 100 fathoms.

In District 4, commercial fishing for salmon will be closed on Sundays between June 1 and July 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In an effort to conserve Kuskokwim Area king and chum salmon and to respect local customs and practices, the Native Village of Kwinhagak proposes regulatory changes to subsistence and commercial salmon fishing gear and operations. While the NVK supports commercial fishing opportunities on surplus salmon, proposing more restrictive gear and gear operations for subsistence fishing than is allowed in the commercial fishery is of concern, which is why the NVK is proposing these gear restrictions apply to both the subsistence and commercial fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Kwinhagak   (HQ-F21-002)
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