

From: [John Mills](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Beach Seine regulation
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 3:05:42 PM

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My questions are about the proposed use of beach seines in Upper Cook Inlet. It is my understanding that if the board of fish adopts the proposed gear change to allow beach seines, anyone possessing a Permit will be allowed to use a beach seine. What about those individuals with off shore nets? Are they going to be excluded from using a beach seine? Is the use of beach seines going to be allowed only for those individuals who possess a beach site? Thank you for your help clarifying this for me.

John Mills
[REDACTED]

From: [Cheryn Clark](#)
To: [Haight, Glenn E \(CFEC\); Dufault, Kate Q \(DNR\)](#)
Cc: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Re: Proposal 313 set beach seine nets
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:14:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Kate,

In rereading the last email, please be advised the the KPFA items of discussion that I listed were NOT being opposed by KPFA board members. When I used the term “our” (myself, other setnetters, other user groups) it was not in reference to KPFA.

Thank you,
Russell Clark

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On Monday, February 24, 2025, 12:07 PM, Cheryn Clark [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Kate,

Thank you for your timely response. To further inform you of our perspective views and opposition to DNR’s stance on beach seines, KPFA held a board member meeting last night and the following was discussed:

1). Since DNR is going to recognize beach seines as priority for lease holders, lease holders will be able to set up running lines on all tracts, even if not fished, to keep other fishermen out.

A). Proposed regulations for beach seines will be that beach seines MUST be set and retrieved by running lines (this is contrary to both beach seine and setnet guidelines). By setting up unfished tracts with running lines, this keeps other fishermen from being able to fish what would otherwise be open water for other fishermen.

B). Proposed regulations will be that commercial dipnetters may not fish within 600 ft of an active beach seine. Since setnets are by statute only supposed to be 210 ft and the proposed beach seine is 600 ft, this puts commercial dipnetters 1200ft offshore and thus violates many beach leases by outwardly encroaching on otherwise open water.

C). Proposed regulations will be that no fisherman will be able to set a beach seine unless it occurs “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 a historic beach staked gillnet location”. This in essence makes this proposal a violation of 11 AAC 64.020 “No person is required to lease tide and submerged lands to participate in a shore fishery”.

D). In the KPFA meeting last night it was discussed that the proposed beach seine fishery for Cook Inlet is a “whole new fishery”, that it is not either beach seine or setnet. By this reasoning, it should not be recognized by either a setnet gear code or a beach seine gear code because the proposal will be that it must be fished by restrictive methods (running lines) that otherwise are not in the regulations for either beach seines or setnets.

E). In the discussion last night, it was brought out that only about 40 permit

holders will be able to participate in the proposed beach seine fishery. This is less than 10% of the ESSN permit holders. This now becomes an allocative issue where the fishery resource is allocated to only a few beach fishermen and this will be able to be made possible through the weaponization of the Shore Fishery lease.

Kate, I was a supporter of the beach seine proposal in the beginning but now I am totally against it because it is a proposal that robs the majority of the permit holders of their rights to fish and to their right to fish in the manner that their permit allows. If this does go through, there is already discussion between other fishermen and user groups to challenge this.

Respectfully,
Russell Clark

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, February 24, 2025, 11:17 AM, Haight, Glenn E (CFEC) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov> wrote:

Good morning Russell,

Thanks for sending this along.

Glenn

Glenn Haight, Commissioner
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
PO Box 110302
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302
907-790-6942 (w)
907-789-6170 (f)
glenn.haight@alaska.gov



From: Cheryn Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2025 3:12 PM
To: Haight, Glenn E (CFEC) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>
Subject: Fw: Proposal 313 set beach seine nets



used. (d) Beach seines may not be less than 100 meshes in depth.

5AAC 21.331(d) A set gillnet may not be more than 35 fathoms in length and 45 meshes in depth. (i) “A single set gillnet may not exceed 35 fathoms in length”.

Kate, many of us feel that the proposed beach seines do not conform to DNR Shore Lease Statutes. Alaska Statute 38.05.082 states that “Fisheries development includes the utilization of shore gillnet or setnets for the taking of fish”. As proposed, these beach seines do not conform to the definition of a setnet or set gillnet as provided for in the DNR lease program. DNR terminology repeatedly references set gillnets as the standard. 11 AAC 64.570 Definitions “tract” means a parcel of tidelands leased under this chapter may include one, two, or three set gillnet sites”.

Kate, many of us feel that if 600 ft beach seines are adopted to be used in the ESSN fishery, that DNR shore leases will be weaponized to exclude many fishermen from being able to participate in the fishery. We feel that we have grounds to challenge the shore leases if the proposal as written is adopted as the beach seine by Alaska Statute has to be at least 100 fathoms in length and is not a setnet. What we see happening is a few fishermen redefining a traditional fishery that recognizes 35 fathom nets.

If the proposal would restrict net length to 35 fathoms then a more viable DNR Shore lease case can be made.

Also as we have discussed in other conversations, if passed, the proposal will only allow for one net to be fished per permit. Shore leases could then be used to close fishing areas that would otherwise be open as they would not be being fished by leaseholders except for the one net.

Kate, I will forward these concerns to Glenn Haight at CFEC so they also will be aware.

Thank You,
Russell Clark

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From: [Haight, Glenn E \(CFEC\)](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Green, Rick E \(CFEC\)](#); [Johnson, Reid H \(CFEC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Further Questions on proposed Beach Seine Cook Inlet
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 8:59:32 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 3:27 AM
To: Haight, Glenn E (CFEC) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>
Subject: Further Questions on proposed Beach Seine Cook Inlet

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Hello Glenn,

Several of the fishermen that I have talked to would like clarification on CFEC's classification of the proposed Beach Seine in proposal 313 being presented to the BOF.

- (1). Does the CFEC by definition classify these nets as "Beach Seines" or "Set Nets"?
- (2). Has the CFEC performed any assessments on the viable number of proposed 600 ft beach seines that can or should be fished in the ESSN fishery?
- (3). Has the CFEC taken into consideration that as being presented, the proposed 600ft beach seine will require several 4wd tractors per net to operate if the seines are required to be operated only by running lines as Authors of Proposal 313 intend to write into the regulations? Please aware, most fishermen do not own two 40k 4wd tractors as most fishermen operate with skiffs and ALL non beach fishermen operate with skiffs.
- (4). Has CFEC considered the possibility that the BOF and/or the Commissioner may in the future restrict or close fishing to beach seines in statistical areas that have a history or may in the future show that they have a high incidence of King Salmon capture? Statistical areas North K Beach and Salamantof are such areas as they immediately border the Kenai River and historically harvest large numbers of Kings. If this happens then the number of viable beach seines are reduced further.
- (5). Is there a possibility that at some point in the future that CFEC will be requested to have limited entry on beach seines if the King Salmon stock of concern management plan has to be implemented for 10-15 years or indefinitely? If this happens, then limited entry will only be available to a small percentage of current ESSN permit holders.
- (6). With the implementation of seine gear in a setnet fishery, does that set a precedent where at some point in the future if the drift fleet is restricted due to King harvest that they too will be able to switch their fillets for seine gear?
- (7). Has CFEC identified any other fishery in Alaska where beach seines HAVE to be

fished from DNR Shore Fishery leases as proposal 313 proposes and requires as a standard for participation?

(8). Has CFEC considered that if a limited number of beach seines are permitted due to future assessments of the 600 ft beach seines and their impact on salmon populations, that a rotational or lottery draw system between permit holders may need to be implemented as it has in other fish and game management areas in Alaska in order for to achieve equal access?

(9). Many Northern District fishermen are concerned about the impact of beach seines on the Northern District fishery as they too are under restrictions and closures for both King and Coho stocks. Proposal 313 allows beach seines to be fished until Aug 15 with Coho retention through out. The Northern District restricted starting late July due to Coho conservation and for the past two years closed the first week of August instead of being open until well into September. Has the CFEC performed or consulted any impact analysis of Northern District salmon stocks?

Glenn, if CFEC has considered any of these questions and has answers for them could you please forward them to me so I can give them to the other fishermen and also have them for the upcoming BOF meeting so they can be addressed?

Thank You,
Russell Clark

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Ted Crookston](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Set Beach Seine Dipnets
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 7:38:51 AM

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Please SUPPORT commercial dipnet and permanent gear type

Please SUPPORT set beach seine as an approved gear type.

Ted Crookston
[REDACTED]