

From: [Alan Crookston](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Public comments
Date: Friday, November 22, 2024 4:05:24 PM

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Hello,

I would like to make a public comment on the commercial dip net fishery. I am somebody who tried it every single day with a full compliment of gear that I was allowed. My experience is that it is a feasible fishery (barely) - more days and more times would make it more feasible.

The BOF has already hinted that they are in favor of increasing the number of days so that we setnetters can make enough money to take care of our families, under this stock of concern management plan.

Many of the people opposed to this commercial dipnet fishing as a gear type, never did it! I think their opinion should not count as much as those who did it. The reality is that if we do not fish next year, there will be no Fisherman around. Allowing us to continue to harvest sockeye during the stock of concern management plan is a good idea.

I am in favor.

Alan Crookston, 44 year setnetter, Salamatof Beach

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Haight, Glenn E \(CFEC\)](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Dip nets
Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024 4:10:07 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Norman <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 2, 2024 at 1:28:17 PM AKDT
To: "Haight, Glenn E (CFEC)" <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>
Cc: Gary Hollier <[REDACTED]>, Carrie Hollier <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Dip nets

Glenn,

Thanks for hosting the meeting about dip nets. Some of the audience really went off subject and I thank you for your patience.

There are 9 SO4H permits in my family operation and we all support further harvest opportunities with dip nets. We made some money and learned a lot about how to improve effectiveness for next season.

Not sure how it would work, but if there is any way to include language to allow commercial dip netting only while under the Stock of concern action plan then they may help ease some of the fisherman who don't want to see dip nets as a permanent replacement to set nets.

Thanks for your time.
Dan Norman

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 28, 2024, at 8:16 AM, Haight, Glenn E (CFEC) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov> wrote:

Hi Gary,

Thanks for the comments. I'll forward to our comment email.

The meeting will have a zoom link if you wish to join from afar.
Either way, we've got your comments.

Take care,

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Hollier <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 12:54 PM

To: Haight, Glenn E (CFEC) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>

Cc: Daniel Norman <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Dip nets

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mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you

recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Glenn,

I and my family are in full support of making dip nets a permanent regulation for the ESSN fishery in the Upper Sub District of Cook Inlet.

I will be out of town on November 2, so can't make the meeting.

I do appreciate your efforts in getting the CFEC to meet in Kenai, and also moving this issue forward!

Thank you,

Gary Hollier

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dave Smith](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Commercial set net fisheries use of dip nets in Cook Inlet
Date: Monday, October 14, 2024 4:24:17 AM

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I support the use of dipnets by commercial set net fishermen in Cook Inlet as an alternative method. Thanks.

From: [michael and deborah Limacher](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Regulations
Date: Friday, November 15, 2024 9:03:00 AM

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I am writing in response to Department of Law file 2024200383, the proposal to make dipnetting a regulation for setnetters. I have fished Cook Inlet since 1978, first as a gillnetter and then in 1987 began setnetting back when the fishery was regulated biologically, not politically as it is now. And when the whole fishery was a sockeye fishery, not a sportsman's dream king salmon fishery. I am insulted by this new regulation and am in utter disbelief that such a proposal would even be considered. If you understood the raging tides at a mile offshore where my sites are, you would know that putting a dipnet down is absurd. Shutting off the east side setnetters as you have these past years is a travesty and will only result in over escapement and eventual ruination of the rivers and lakes. This regulation is a joke and I will never stoop down to your absurdities! Deborah Limacher, Homer, Alaska 99603

From: [Haight, Glenn E \(CFEC\)](#)
To: [Gary Hollier](#); [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Daniel Norman](#)
Subject: RE: Dip nets
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 8:16:58 AM

Hi Gary,

Thanks for the comments. I'll forward to our comment email.

The meeting will have a zoom link if you wish to join from afar. Either way, we've got your comments.

Take care,
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

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Hollier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Haight, Glenn E (CFEC) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>
Cc: Daniel Norman <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Dip nets

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Glenn,

I and my family are in full support of making dip nets a permanent regulation for the ESSN fishery in the Upper Sub District of Cook Inlet.

I will be out of town on November 2, so can't make the meeting.

I do appreciate your efforts in getting the CFEC to meet in Kenai, and also moving this issue forward!

Thank you,

Gary Hollier

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kim Seater](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: 20 AAC 05.220 is proposed to be changed to allow the use of a dipnet in accordance with 5 AAC 21.382 under a set gillnet permit in the Cook Inlet Area
Date: Friday, November 22, 2024 4:20:46 PM

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Dear Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission,

Thank you for another opportunity to submit comments concerning 20 AAC 05.220 proposed to be changed to allow the use of a dipnet in accordance with 5AAC 21.382 under a set gillnet permit in the Cook Inlet Area. As I commented in my earlier email sent on 6/20/24 there are numerous reasons for not allowing the use of a dipnet under a set gillnet permit in the Cook Inlet Area. I again urge the Commission not to allow the use of a dipnet under a set gillnet permit in the Cook Inlet area.

I applauded the Commission in June of this year when they decided not to approve dipnets as permanent gear, citing concerns with safety, efficiency, viability and costs. All of these concerns are still valid. These new requests for increased dipnet opening times and more fishing days will not make our fishery more viable while operating under the Kenai River Late-run King Salmon Stock of Concern Action Plan. Despite the ESSN dipnet fishery catching over 27,000 sockeye and only 1 king salmon in 2024, neither the Kenai River early-run nor the late-run large king salmon optimal escapement goals [OEC] were achieved. And in 2024 both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers had an over escapement of sockeye salmon.

In 2024 approximately 101 permits delivered fish in the dipnet fishery. And the highest success was seen on beaches near the Kenai River. Most of the ESS Net Permit Holders do not have sites near the Kenai River. The ESS dipnet fishery is not sustainable for the majority of ESS Net Permit Holders.

I recommend the Commission, ADF&G, and the Board of Fish not allow the use of dipnets, beach seines, and beach nets that are half the width of normal nets. If we are to save the Cook Inlet King Salmon we need to do more than sacrifice the ESS Net Fishery and start adopting regulations that cut the bycatch of king salmon by the Gulf of Alaska trawlers, and the over-fishing in their spawning grounds in the lower Kenai River. And if the ESS Net fishery continues to be closed down due to the low return of king salmon I urge you to consider a salmon weir in the Kenai River using profits from the harvest/sale of sockeye to the local processors-keeping workers in the community employed, covering the cost of labor and construction using local workers, decreasing over escapement in the river, and delivering a high quality product/sockeye salmon. And any additional profit could then be split between the ESS Net Permit Holders in the hopes that it could sustain us until we are again allowed to fish with set gillnets.

I again appreciate your consideration and thank you for your attention to this matter. And urge the Commission not to allow the use of a dipnet under a set gillnet permit in the Cook Inlet area.

Kimberly Seater

ESS Net Permit Holder

60's, to attempt such a foolish solution to the east side setnetter debate.

We are gill setnetters- not dip-netters. There is a difference between the 2 categories.

Cut us down to fishing 1 gill net per license or shorter periods of fishing time- as you have done in the past. Or do a buy back program.

Placing us in a dip- netter category is a feeble solution to an-going agenda!

Thank-you for your attention.

Mrs. Lee N. Seater

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cheryn Clark](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Re: Public Notice - Proposed regulation code change: Cook Inlet dip nets
Date: Friday, October 11, 2024 5:09:18 PM

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Hello Jennifer.

Please note that in the regulation change it states to allow for “a” dipnet to be allowed for a permit. S04H permit holders are allowed to”4” dipnets per permit. This clarification may be necessary to keep permit holders from being only able to use “1” dipnet per permit.

Thank you,
Russell Clark

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Friday, October 11, 2024, 4:41 PM, DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions (DFG sponsored) <DFG.CFEC.PublicQuestions@alaska.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

We have you listed as a possible interested party in the attached public notice with the date and time of the public hearing regarding proposed regulation code changes to allow for the use of dipnets in the Cook Inlet setnet fishery. Public comment timelines and instructions are provided in the attachments.

Thank you,

Jennifer Findley
Law Specialist III
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC)
907-790-6940
jennifer.findley@alaska.gov

From: DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions (DFG sponsored)
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 4:37 PM
Subject: Public Notice - Proposed regulation code change: Cook Inlet dip nets

Good afternoon,

We have you listed as a possible interested party in the attached public notice with the date and time of the public hearing regarding proposed regulation code changes to allow for the use of dipnets in the Cook Inlet setnet fishery. Public

comment timelines and instructions are provided in the attachments.

Thank you,

Jennifer Findley

Law Specialist III

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC)

907-790-6940

jennifer.findley@alaska.gov

From: [Haight, Glenn E \(CFEC\)](#)
To: [Ted Crookston](#); [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Alan Crookston](#)
Subject: RE: Dipnet hearing comments.
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:39:37 PM

I got it and tried to forward it to our comment portal. That portal is on this email if you wish to use it in the future.

Thanks Ted.

From: Ted Crookston [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 1:09 PM
To: Haight, Glenn E (CFEC) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>
Cc: Alan Crookston [REDACTED] >
Subject: Dipnet hearing comments.

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Hi Glenn;

Ted Crookston here:

I have learned that due to an AT&T glitch a ghost phone number has been attached to my mobile phone. So a text that I sent with additional comments right at the end of the hearing after the zoom callers were muted may not have come through. Perhaps it did but just in case here it is an email.

I have three comments I wanted to make and have on today's record: 1) I'm definitely in favor of approving the gear type. That at least provides the option for ADFG to use it. And then to fish with dipnets or not fish is an individual fisherman's choice. But if it isn't approved as a gear type then there is no option whatsoever even for those of us who want to use dipnets-as opposed to NOTHING and that is the reality of the alternative that exists. That certainly isn't fair. So it isn't right that folks who didn't even try or didn't use them much or are just negative about them to take that opportunity away from those of us who did. 2) the BOF has accepted ACRs to address refinements and address issues that came up like DNR leases, # of days, season and possibly more. To not approve the gear type would fly in the face of those ACR decisions and actions and would undermine the efforts of the BOF to get some opportunity to setnetters. Clearly the intent of the BOF is that the gear type be approved. 3) so what if there are many who say they are against it. The CFEC decision whether to approve it or not approve it is not based on a majority vote. This is a highly unique unprecedented set of difficult circumstances. I think the CFEC should approve the BOF's newly added gear type of

commercial dipnets. Those who choose to use them will and those who don't - don't have to and won't.

We realize this is an inherent part of the process you have to go through. It seems to me that even with the existence of naysayers who clearly are unhappy about a plethora of complex and over-lapping issues that the commercial use of dipnets should still be approved at this point. Thanks for your efforts.

Ted Crookston



From: [Ted Crookston](#)
To: [DFG, CFEC PublicQuestions \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Approve Commercial Dipnets...
Date: Friday, November 22, 2024 4:45:16 PM

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I urge you to approve the permanent use of dip nets for commercial use for UCI S04H setnet permit holders.

1. The question of economic viability is dramatically impacted by having the BOF open up more days and extend the season and the BOF has in fact accepted several ACRs on this very issue. To have the CFEC not approve the gear type would close any door for making it more profitable by extending the available time.

2. This fear raised by some as saying they will make set nets never come back would not be altered by whether or not they are approved as currently allowed. It is not really the same question. In other words, to have CFEC NOT approve commercial dip nets does NOTHING to address or ameliorate this fear! That fear is not a valid argument for not making this current approval for the dip nets. In fact, the whole intent of them is to help get through this difficult Stock of Concern plan which is ALREADY IN PLACE and to not have them approved means no fishing access at all.

3. Some who didn't even try them last year may be interested in trying them this year, but only if they have the option. I personally know of fishermen who have stated that to me.

4. It was never expected to be a full replacement for setnets so it makes no sense to compare them. The question is: "Did the use of dip nets for setnetters create enough value for at least enough fishermen to make it worthwhile?" The answer to that question is YES it did. Based on that they should be approved.

5. Was it fantastic? - well NO. But for goodness sake let us and the BOF keep working on it and making improvements by making them a permanent gear type to be used during this stock of concern crisis.

6. The complainers and bellyachers have valid concerns about the ESSN fishery, but they have no right to block the approval of the emergency use of the dip net gear and take that away from those of us who want to use it. It was a life saver for our family. Approving the dip nets does not force anyone to use them. It is completely voluntary. But if they are not approved then it is no longer voluntary, everyone would be completely prohibited from using them even if they wanted to. That makes no sense and that certainly would not be fair. How could not approving commercial dip nets possibly make anything better? It can't. It would only make it worse.

Thank you.

Ted Crookston

[REDACTED]
Kenai, AK 99611