

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

**Regulation Proposal Form 2024-2025**

**Proposals must be received Tuesday, April 10, 2025**

**PO BOX 115526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-5526 or FAX (907) 465-6094 or online at:**

<https://arcg.is/biqum0>

<b>BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsistence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial
<b>*Which meeting would you like to submit your proposal to?</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod			
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arctic / Yukon / Kuskokwim Finfish			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol Bay Finfish			
<input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues			
<b>Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal book along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal. Address only one issue per proposal. State the issue clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing items.</b>			
<b>1. Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC _____</b>			
<b>*2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?</b>			
Conservation of Yukon River Mainstem Fall Chum Salmon			
4" mesh gillnets are well known to be a very effective gear type to catch Chum Salmon.			
Use of this gear type during the Fall chum migration up the Yukon river is having a serious negative impact to critically low mainstem Fall Chum runs.			
This gear type is intended to fish for NON SALMON species, however Fall Chum are being intercepted by fishers both intentionally and unintentionally using 4" mesh gillnets.			
Allowing this gear type with cumbersome regulations imposing various time and area restrictions in an effort to protect depleted stocks is incredibly complicated and thus ineffective, for both fishers and law enforcement.			
1. These stocks are in critical danger of extinction.			
2. These stocks are essential for the health of all Salmon spawning streams they run to, both Chum and Chinook by delivering critical marine derived nutrients			
3. Marine derived nutrients in spawning habitat is essential for productive spawning eco systems			
4. Fall chum are critical to upper Yukon river districts for Subsistence use, and food security.			
5. Maintaining <b>LONG TERM sustainable</b> fish stocks is critical to a Subsistence Lifestyle			
6. Rebuilding this critical stock as quickly as possible needs to be a top priority given the dangerously low runs			
7. Given the low numbers of returning fish, every FISH & EGG counts to avoid extirpation of these stocks.			
The simple solution for meaningful protection of mainstem Fall chum, is to close the use of this gear type until such time that Mainstem Fall Chum have achieved escapement goals currently in place, for 1life cycle. i.e. 4 years.			

It is recognized the short term hardship this gear closer will impose on fishers' drainage wide. However, the Extirpation or Extinction of these stocks would be a much greater hardship FOREVER, both in food security and cultural longevity.

**\*3. What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? (Please provide draft regulatory language, if possible.)**

The use of 4" mesh gillnets shall be closed on the Yukon River Mainstem, starting when Fall Chum salmon are detected at Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) in DISTRICT 1 with subsequent closures walked up river through fishing District 1-5 as Fall Chum enter each district.

Reopen mainstem fishing to 4" mesh gear progressively up river as Fall chum tail end of the run has moved through each District.

These closures should be in effect until Mainstem Fall Chum have achieved current escapement goals 75,000-115,000 for one life cycle, defined as 4 years. This is to allow full potential of Fall chum to jump start long term rebuilding efforts.

**4. Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.**

This Proposal was developed through the Eagle AC, with experience from Fishers engaged with Eagle AC, Local Fishers, Representatives from the EIRAC, Yukon River Panel members, and Tribal Chief of Eagle Village.

Coordination of knowledge gained through participation with Fairbanks AC, BBAYK Coalition, and some members of Minto /Nenana AC further substantiated development of this proposal.

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**\*Submitted By:** Eagle AC Chairman  
**Individual or Group**