

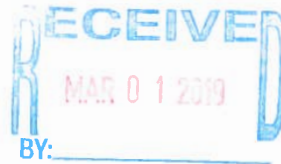


THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL I. DUNLAVY

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8th Street
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.6136
Fax: 907.465.2332



March 1, 2019

Mr. Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

Subject: Updated Information & Position for FP19-01

Dear Chairman Christianson:

As you know, fishery proposal 19-01 (FP19-01) would expand the fishing area/time in the Yukon River subsistence salmon drift gillnet fishery and repeal the maximum depth restriction of 35 meshes deep for drift gillnets in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. The stated intention of this proposal is to align the federal subsistence regulations with Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) regulatory changes that were made in Spring 2018 for the drift gillnet fisheries in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C of the Yukon River, and mirror the State of Alaska's absence of a drift gillnet mesh depth limit.

Since the submission of proposal FP19 01, the BOF met January 15 19, 2019, to consider proposals for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim area. BOF proposals 87 and 98 were relevant to this proposal. Proposal 87 failed and the BOF took no action on Proposal 98. However, a board-generated proposal, 178, sought to simplify regulatory language for drift fishing in all of District 4. It passed and amended regulatory language was adopted that: 1) allows drift fishing for all areas of District 4, 2) removes season dates so that it is legal to harvest all salmon with drift gillnets in this area, and 3) retains the gillnet length restriction of 150 ft (25 fathoms). These changes, after Alaska Department of Law review, will likely go into effect by the 2019 fishing season. We have revised our position to support FP19-01 with amendments to adopt regulatory language in federal subsistence fishing regulations to mirror this recent change by the BOF.

The draft regulatory language is attached for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Mulligan".

Ben Mulligan
Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure

**Cc: Sam Rabung, Director Division of Commercial Fisheries
Lisa Olson, Acting Director Division of Subsistence
George Pappas, State Liaison, Office of Subsistence Management
Dr. Jennifer Hardin, Subsistence Policy Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management**

ADF&G recommendation to amend FP19-01 with draft regulatory language, as follows:

5 AAC 01.220(e) is amended to read:

(e) In Districts 4, 5, and 6, salmon may not be taken for subsistence purposes by drift gillnets, except **that in District 4 salmon may be taken by drift gillnets that are not more than 25 fathoms in length, unless closed by emergency order** [AS FOLLOWS:

(1) IN SUBDISTRICT 4-A UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF STINK CREEK, AND IN SUBDISTRICTS 4-B AND 4-C,

(A) KING SALMON MAY BE TAKEN BY DRIFT GILLNETS FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH JULY 14, UNLESS CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(B) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 2, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, FISHING PERIODS DURING WHICH CHUM SALMON MAY BE TAKEN BY DRIFT GILLNETS; AND

(C) CHUM SALMON MAY BE TAKEN BY DRIFT GILLNETS AFTER AUGUST 2;

(2) IN SUBDISTRICT 4-A DOWNSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF STINK CREEK,

(A) KING SALMON MAY BE TAKEN BY DRIFT GILLNETS FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH JULY 14, UNLESS CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;

(B) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 2, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, FISHING PERIODS DURING WHICH CHUM SALMON MAY BE TAKEN BY DRIFT GILLNETS;

(3) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE A DRIFT GILLNET THAT IS MORE THAN 150 FEET IN LENGTH DURING THE SEASONS DESCRIBED IN (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION].