PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Establish waters closed to commercial drift gillnet fishing in and around Coffman Cove, as follows:

Closed waters for taking salmon with net gear.

5 AAC 33.350(g)(17), close the waters for net gear in Coffman Cove waters north and west of line from a point located at 56’00.959'N lat., 132'48.653'W long to a point at the southern tip of The Triplets located at 56’03.470'N lat., 132'49.960'W long, and south of the latitude of 56’03.470 which is located at the southern tip of The Triplets;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Coffman Cove have seen a greater presence of un-guided non-resident sport fishing anglers and commercial gillnetters in the area of Coffman Cove. Both the un-guided non-resident vessels as well as local resident vessels have had issues while attempting to leave and return back to Coffman Cove while navigating around commercial gillnets. Commercial gillnetters will fish 300 fathom drift gillnets directly at the mouth of Coffman Cove. Clarence Strait is known to having harsh wind and sea conditions. Skiffs have ran into drift gillnets while attempting to return back into the safe waters of Coffman Cove. At the writing of this proposal, there have been no reported injuries or death associated with collisions with drift gillnets near Coffman. This proposal is being submitted in an attempt to prevent any collisions of small sport fish vessels and the commercial gillnets. Coffman Cove sport fisherman often times leave Coffman Cove and fish from The Triplets further north. Closing a small area, due to the safety concern, in the area given is in an attempt to protect life and prevent injuries as well as protect damage to commercial nets. This regulation change will not greatly effect commercial gillnetters as they will adapt by fishing the next point, three quarters of a mile south of the entrance of Coffman Cove.

PROPOSED BY: The East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-089)

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