

An Act to Prohibit Set Nets in Urban Areas

This bill bans commercial fishing with shore gill nets and set nets in the urban, nonsubsistence areas of Alaska. A person could still use a shore gill net or set net for customary and traditional use or for “personal use” fishing in a nonsubsistence area. The bill does not apply to fishing in rural, subsistence areas of the state. The bill adopts existing definitions for “customary and traditional,” “personal use fishing,” “shore gill net,” “set net,” and “nonsubsistence area.”

The bill adds an intent statement to the uncodified law. The statement describes shore gill nets and set nets. It states that shore gill net and set net fishing is outdated and wasteful. It notes that shore gill nets and set nets are banned elsewhere. It states that shore gill nets and set nets are harmful in nonsubsistence areas, which are near urban centers where there is more fishing. It states that banning shore gill nets and set nets will help conserve and develop fisheries. It states the bill does not intend to limit the Legislature’s or the Board of Fish’s discretion to allocate fish among users.

Should this initiative become law?