

**STATE WATERS TRAWL: COOK INLET AND ADAK AREAS**

**PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Pollock Management Plan for Western Gulf of Alaska.**

Amend this regulation as follows:

Request a historical state waters harvest percentage plus 15 percent of the federal Pollack GHG in Western Gulf area 610 to be managed by state regulations and have a year round 58-foot limit on vessels that fish pollock in statewaters.

**ISSUE:** A large percent of the pollock have historically been harvested in statewaters during the federal/state parallel pollock openings of Western Gulf area 610. Pollock rationalization is probable leaving the state without ability to manage own waters.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** As in the case of Pacific cod before the state took control of statewater management the federal government will manage and possibly rationalize Pollock stocks in statewaters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It would cause a slower rate of harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** State would manage its own stocks. Smaller 58-foot or less vessels.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Large pollock vessels.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-06F-004)  
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**PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Establish a new regulation as follows:**

Establish a state waters pollock fishery. The quota shall be a percentage of the federal Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) calculated by averaging the pollock caught in state waters over the previous years and adding another 15 percent to account for reporting errors.

**ISSUE:** The taking of local pollock quotas by large Bering Sea pollock trawlers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Local fishermen will continue to lose quota to large Bering Sea pollock trawlers.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Area M pollock fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. Bering Sea pollock trawlers are guaranteed quota in the Bering Sea.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

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**PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Amend this regulation as follows:

Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., of the state Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands area.

b) Each year the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a parallel Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., to coincide with the initial federal season in the federal Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands area. The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel Pacific cod season during which the use of the same gear allowed in the federal Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands Area Pacific cod season is permitted, unless that gear is prohibited under 5 AAC 28.050. or 5 AAC 28.629.

c) [ON OR AFTER MARCH 15,] the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod A season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., [IF] when the initial parallel catcher-vessel trawl fishery is closed. The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters Pacific cod season opened under this subsection when the guideline harvest is taken or [ON DECEMBER 31] **prior to the opening of the federal fixed gear B season,** which ever occurs first. **The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod B season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., when the initial parallel fixed gear B season fishery for catcher-vessels less than 60’ is closed. The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters Pacific cod season opened under this subsection when the guideline harvest level is taken or on December 31 whichever occurs first.**

d) The commissioner may open and/or close, by emergency order, **(parallel or state-water)** fishing seasons at times other than those specified in the management plan if;

(1) the guideline harvest level specified in (e)(1) of this section has been reached and/or a federal season is ongoing in adjacent federal waters; or

(2) the commissioner determines it is necessary to

- A) adapt to unanticipated opening and closures of the federal season;
- B) maintain sustained yield management; or
- C) provide for orderly fisheries.

e) During a state-waters season,

1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long., is three percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands area;

A) a maximum of 70 percent of the guideline harvest level shall be available for harvest before June 10;

B) any unharvested amount under (e)(1)(A) of this subsection, will be rolled over on June 10; a total of 30 percent of the guideline harvest level plus the unharvested amount from the prior season up to a maximum of 70 percent will be available June 10;

C) if the commissioner determines that the guideline harvest level will not be harvested in the state-waters fishery, the commissioner may notify the National Marine Fisheries Service that the projected unharvested guideline harvest level may be available for harvest in the federal fishery;

2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear; in addition to the requirements of 5AAC 28.020, a vessel must be registered to fish with pot gear or mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, and may be registered to fish only with one of these two gear types; a vessels gear registration may be changed during a state-

waters season to a different gear registration if the owner, or owner's agent, submits a written request for a change in registration by mail, facsimile, or in person, to the department office in Dutch Harbor, or other locations specified by the department for validation, and that registration has been validated by the department; a vessel may not fish outside of the designated registration area; a vessel may not change registration areas while unprocessed fish are on board;

3) during [THE 2006 AND] 2007 season, **and for any subsequent year in which the NPFMC has not subdivided the BSAIP. Cod TAC between the Aleutian Island and Bering Sea management areas,** in addition to the gear types specified in (e)(2) of this subsection, non-pelagic trawl and longline gear may be used, except during a state-waters season, trawl and longline gear may not be used from May 1 – September 15, except vessel's operating gear under 5 AAC 28.629.(d) and (e) and 5 AAC 28.690(a) and (b);

4) a vessel must be registered to fish with non-pelagic trawl or longline gear; a vessel's gear registration may be changed during a state-waters season to a different gear if the owner, or owner's agent, submits a written request for a change in registration by mail, facsimile, or in person, to the department office in Dutch Harbor, or other locations specified by the department for validation, and that registration has been validated by the department; a vessel may not fish outside of the designated registration area; a vessel may not change registration while unprocessed fish are on board;

5) a vessel may harvest up to 150,000 pounds daily of Pacific cod, and may only have 300,000 pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod on board the vessel; a vessel may not have more processed fish on board than the round weight equivalent of the fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets during the two seasons specified in (e)(1)(A) and (e)(1)(B) of this section; a validly registered vessel must report daily to the department the pounds of Pacific cod taken on board the vessel;

6) all Pacific cod taken must be retained, however, any overage must be immediately reported to the department and all proceeds from the sale of Pacific cod in excess of the limitations of the amount specified in (e)(5) of this section shall be surrendered to the state; an overage of the provisions of this section shall not be considered a violation of this section if the overage is immediately reported to the state and proceeds of the overage immediately surrendered to the state.

7) **participation in the state-waters fishery is limited to:**

A) **those vessels less than 60' for the use of longline gear, and other fixed gear (pot gear, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear).**

C) **those vessels less than 125' for the use of trawl gear.**

8) **harvest of the A and B season allocations will be divided in two components (1) for vessels under 60' and (2) for vessels between 60' and less than 125'.**

A) **in 2007 the A and B seasons of the allocations will be a minimum of 60 percent to the vessels under 60' and up to 40 percent to the vessels between 60' and less than 125'.**

B) **in any subsequent year to a year in which vessels less than 60' harvest their share of a seasonal apportionment, the minimum amount available to vessels under 60' for such season shall be increased by 20 percent, until 100 percent is reserved for vessels less than 60'.**

C) **if the commissioner determines that vessels less than 60' will be unable to harvest the full 40 percent of the seasonal allocation, the commissioner may roll over the projected unused amount to vessels between 60' and under 125' in length.**

f) The Aleutian Islands District is a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

g) The commissioner may, by emergency order, impose bycatch limitations and or retention requirements based on conservation of the resource, to avoid waste of a bycatch species, to

prevent over harvest of bycatch species, or to facilitate consistency of the regulations in an area where state and federal jurisdictions overlap.

h) In the state-waters Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery, all closures specified in the parallel Pacific cod fishery shall apply as specified by gear group in 50 CFR 679, revised as of October 2005.

[ i) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2007.] **The Board of fish will review the provisions of this section on a three year cycle.**

**ISSUE:** Aleutian Island west of 170° Pacific Cod Management Plan. Provide more opportunity for small local Adak fleet.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Most of state-water cod will be harvested by large non-local vessels.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Harvest is close to Adak plant, quality better.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local Alaska limit fleet and Adak city.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Large distant water fleet.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Aleut Enterprise Corporation (HQ-06F-098)

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**PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 28.647 Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Amend the management plan as follows:

Specify a seven day stand-down period between the initial parallel Pacific cod trawl catcher vessel closure and the opening of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery. Clarify that all parallel Pacific cod fishery gear sectors are closed during the state-waters Pacific cod season. Modify overage provision of the management plan to allow an overage to be considered for a violation. Adopt recently-adopted NMFS habitat-protection measures for coral garden and bottom-trawl closure areas of the Aleutian Islands during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

5 AAC 28.647 Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod season in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W long., on March 15, or seven days after the initial parallel catcher-vessel trawl fishery closure, whichever occurs later. During the state-waters Pacific cod fishery, all parallel Pacific cod gear-sectors shall be closed. The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters Pacific cod season opened under this subsection when the guideline harvest level is taken or on December 31, whichever occurs first.

(e)(6) all Pacific cod taken must be retained, however, any harvests exceeding the limits specified in (e)(5) of this section must be reported daily to the department by the vessel operator if delivery has not occurred, and reported by the processor at the time of delivery. All proceeds from the sale of Pacific cod in excess of the harvest limits specified in (e)(5) of this section shall be surrendered to the state.

(h) In the state-waters Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery, all closures specified in the parallel Pacific cod fishery shall apply as specified by gear group in 50 CFR 679, revised as of September 2006.

**ISSUE:** The Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the Aleutian Islands District Pacific cod fishery management plan in February 2006. The management plan generally provided for an orderly and manageable fishery in March 2006, however there are several aspects of the plan that could be modified to improve management and provide clarity for the public.

Similar to other state-waters Pacific cod fisheries, the department requests that the board specify a seven day stand-down period between the initial parallel trawl catcher vessel closure and the opening of the state-waters fishery to provide for accurate catch accounting and an orderly start to the state-waters fishery.

In light of the various overlapping federal/parallel Pacific cod fishery gear-sector allocations, the state-waters fishery management plan should be clarified with regard to the status of the parallel fishery when the state-waters season is open. The department requests clarification that all parallel fishery gear sectors are closed during the state-waters season.

The current overage provision of the management plan does not consider an overage to be a violation, provided that the overage is immediately reported to the state. The department requests that the Board consider removing this portion of the overage provision, thereby allowing an overage to be considered for a violation. In addition, the plan uses vague language to describe when an overage should be reported to the state.

The National Marine Fisheries Service recently implemented regulations closing specific areas of the Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area to fishing gear. This area includes six “coral gardens” that are closed to all bottom-contact gear. The department closed the six coral areas by emergency order during the 2006 season. The Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area also includes areas that are closed to bottom trawling. The department recommends that the board consider adopting the portion of these habitat-protection closures occurring in state waters for the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will continue to manage the fishery as it did during the 2006 season. Trip limit overages will continue to be difficult to enforce and relatively ineffective in reducing harvest rate.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Department fishery managers and industry members will benefit from regulations that clarify the board’s intent with regard to the status of the state-waters fishery in relation to various federal/parallel seasons and with regard to trip limit overages.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-181)  
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*Note: This proposal was deferred from the March 2005 and October 2005 Board of Fisheries meetings. It was previously numbered Proposal 455 and split to apply to different areas.*

**PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. State waters walleye pollock fishery, Adak Area.** Create a new regulation to provide for a state waters walleye pollock fishery as follows:

Area:

**Option 1.** Open all state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude, 1-3 miles except continue rookery closure 0-20 miles.

**Option 2.** Between 174° to 178° W longitude state waters 0-3 miles around haulouts and 0-20 miles around rookeries shall remain closed, the rest of state waters, 0-3 miles, are opened.

Open to pelagic trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less.

Harvest Limits:

**Option 1.** 1,500 metric tons, A-season only.

**Option 2.** 3,000 metric tons, A-season only.

**Option 3.** 3,775 metric tons

**Option 4.** No limit up to the Total Allowable Catch (19,000 metric tons),  
A-season 40 % / B-season 60 % split remains in place.

Methods for monitoring harvest and harvest area compliance:

1. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will be required on all vessels fishing pollock in state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude.
2. No cod-end transfers are allowed; each vessel must deliver its catch directly to a plant where the unsorted catch can be observed.

Fishing will occur at the same time as the non-critical habitat open areas in federal waters, except that the board will allocate the small vessel harvest only during the A-season.

Occurs under NMFS rules and seasons in the federal/parallel Aleutian Islands pollock fishery.

**ISSUE:** This proposal presents management options for a state waters pollock harvest near Adak, in the Aleutian Islands, to provide access for a small boat fishery, consistent with Congressional intent to develop a small vessel fishery adjacent to the community of Adak

The U.S. Congress, in Section 803 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (HR 2673, now Public Law 108-199) required that future directed fishing allowances of pollock in the Aleutian Islands be allocated to the Aleut Corporation. The Aleut Corporation was unsuccessful in harvesting its allocation outside of critical habitat during the 2005 season and sought access to safer, nearshore state waters via a proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

This action would provide community economic development via a pollock fishery in the safer, nearshore state waters of the Aleutian Islands.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Proposal Evaluation Information

1. The geographic extent of the proposal: The current information that NMFS has indicates most of the Steller sea lion (SSL) juveniles are within 0 – 1 mile from shore (the information was not aggregated by proximity to rookeries and haulouts). Therefore two options are considered:

Option 1.) Open all state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude 1 – 3 miles, except continue rookery closure 0 – 20 miles.

Option 2.) Between 174° to 178° W longitude state waters 0 - 3 miles around haulouts and 0-20 miles around rookeries shall remain closed, the rest of state waters, 0 – 3 miles, are opened.

2. Type, size, number and capacity of vessels: State waters described above would only be open to pelagic trawl vessels 58 feet in length or less, generally having a harvest capacity of less than 100,000 pounds. It is expected that fewer than 12 vessels would participate.

3. How much fish will be harvested and how will it be seasonally apportioned? Harvest Options: (Could also limit to fishing to 3 days/week – vessel choice by weather – to further reduce possible depletion concerns.)

Option 1) 1,500 mt, A-season only

Option 2) 3,000 mt, A-season only

Option 3) 3,775 mt (25% of the 15,100 mt Aleut allocation for 2005/2006 as described in the February 24, 2005 Federal Register notice. This will move to 50% of the Aleut TAC allocation after 2008.) A-season harvest only through 2008.

Option 4) No limit up to the TAC (19,000 mt), A-season 40%/B-season 60% split remains in place.

4. Methods for monitoring harvest and harvest area compliance:

1) VMS will be required on all vessels fishing pollock in state waters between 174° to 178° W longitude.

2) No codend transfers are allowed; each vessel must deliver its catch directly to a plant where the unsorted catch can be observed to account for bycatch of rockfish, which are a concern to managers.

5. Limitations on participation: Because Adak is so far a distance from GOA communities where 58-foot vessels are available, only a few contracted vessels are likely to travel from Sandpoint to Adak for the A-season harvest.

6. When will fishing occur: Fishing will occur at the same time as the non-critical habitat open areas in federal waters, except that the Board will allocate the small vessel harvest only during the A-season.

7. Type and method of harvest: As described above and the same as that which occurs under NMFS rules and seasons in the federal/parallel Aleutian Islands pollock fishery.

The goal of opening the state waters of the Aleutian Islands from 174° to 178° W longitude is to support community development by providing a safe fishing area (near the lee of islands and headlands) which will allow for the development of a small vessel fleet in Adak. Access to state waters is particularly important for small vessels fishing in the Aleutian Islands. Weather conditions in this area can be extreme and these vessels need either safe harbor and/or weather protection while working in the lee of land. The most dangerous time for small pollock trawlers is after haul back, when the net is brought on board to dump the catch into the hold. Without protection from heavy weather behind headlands, a vessel could turn turtle.

Also, concern by NMFS about bycatch species has also been expressed. To assure that vessels fish cleanly and accurately report catch and bycatch on a load-by-load basis, the board can require that each unsorted net tow be placed into the hold to account for EFH, salmon, rockfish and other bycatch. Observers can also be required at any plant processing Adak pollock to

insure that the entire net haul is observed at the plant. Prohibition of tendering in this area will assure that the entire haul is plant observed.

State-enforced pelagic trawling over coral and rough bottom types in the Aleutian Islands will keep nets from contacting the sensitive bottom habitat. This is to comply with the Council's intent to protect sensitive EFH in the Aleutian Islands.

Section 108 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that for the first five years up to 25 percent of the total available pollock harvest in the Aleutians can be taken by vessels less than 60 feet LOA. This Congressional intent may best be met with pollock harvested in state waters to provide for development of the small boat Aleutian Islands pollock fishery.

Lastly, the Traditional Aleut Council of the Pribilof Island of St. George has requested a review and, if warranted, and expansion of the Steller sea lion protection measures to include 0 – 10 mile closure around the Dalnoi Point haulout. The Aleut community of Adak supports the Dalnoi Point haulout closure as a trade-off for the requested Board of Fisheries opening of state waters to commercial fishing adjacent to their community near two haulouts and in other critical habitat in state waters in the Aleutian Islands. Considering that the only three rookeries in the Central Aleutian Islands where SSL populations are not increasing are west of the 178° W longitude line, and that the June 2004 NMFS document on SSL indicates that pollock only account for 2.7 percent of the SSL prey in the Central Aleutians during the winter (December through April, 1990-1998). Since the Board's proposed action is also a winter event, the impact on pollock would be small. Additionally, Atka mackerel, which by itself accounts for 65 percent of prey selection, is a high-energy, abundant prey available year round in the central Aleutians. Therefore it is unlikely that the proposed fishery near Adak would impact SSL, even if the 2001 Biological Opinion presumption of nutrition and fishery activity were correct.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fishing in state waters for walleye pollock will remain closed in Steller sea lion protected areas.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Unknown.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen wanting to harvest walleye pollock in state waters that are currently closed, processors that currently have little or no opportunity to purchase pollock, and coastal communities that are economically affected by large-scale pollock fishing closures will benefit from access to the pollock resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unknown

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-06F-001)  
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*Note: This proposal was deferred from the March 2005 and October 2005 Board of Fisheries meetings. It was previously numbered Proposal 455 and split to apply to different areas.*

**PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. State waters walleye pollock fishery, Cook Inlet Area.**  
Create a new regulation to provide for a state waters walleye pollock fishery as follows:



Area:

The geographic extent of the fishery includes those state waters between 149° W Longitude and 150° W Longitude of the Central Gulf of Alaska that are beyond a 3-mile radius of SSL haulouts at Rugged Island, Chiswell Islands, and Seal Rocks (Kenai). This action would open the state statistical areas 495902, 495932 through 495938, 496001, and 496002 to pollock fishing.

Gear, Other:

The fishery would be open only to vessels using pelagic trawl gear.

All fishing would occur under the terms of a commissioner's permit (Alaska Statute 16.05.050(10)), and specifically 5 AAC 28.379. The permit could specify fishing seasons, area, gear, logbook requirements, landing requirements, observer requirements, bycatch limits, etc.

Daily limits equal to the trip limits (300,000 pounds) would also be imposed. The use of tenders in the fishery would be prohibited.

Harvest Limits:

**Option A.** Establish a state waters seasons in which the total harvest would be limited to 1,500 metric tons, with the opening date coinciding with the CGOA pollock A season and an Emergency order closure when the harvest level was achieved.

**Option B.** Establish a parallel season wherein open season dates would coincide with the CGOA pollock A seasons and no state harvest limit would be imposed.

100 percent onboard observer coverage would be used to monitor the harvest and VMS would be required.

**ISSUE:** This proposal present management options for a state waters pollock harvest in the Cook Inlet Area, to provide fishery-dependent communities access to the pollock resource in waters adjacent to their communities.

A historical pollock fishery occurred in state waters in and around Resurrection Bay prior to fishing closures resulting from the 2001 Biological Opinion, designed to protect Steller sea lions within critical habitat in the Cook Inlet management area. The average harvest of 2,000 MT from the affected area during 1996 to 1999 represents lost local opportunity to harvesters and processors, particularly in Seward. A small experimental fishery occurred in 2004 under a Commissioner's permit.

This action would provide regulations for a pollock fishery in a portion of Cook Inlet state waters to restore historic harvest opportunity and provide economic stability for Seward processors and their workers.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Proposal Evaluation Information

1. The geographic extent of the changes to the fishery includes those state waters between 149°

W Longitude and 150° W Longitude of the Central Gulf of Alaska that are beyond a 3-mile radius of SSL haulouts at Rugged Island, Chiswell Islands, and Seal Rocks (Kenai). This area is approximately 0.6% of the total area within GOA designated critical habitat. This action would open state statistical areas 495902, 495932 through 495938, 496001, and 496002 to pollock fishing.

2. The fishery would be open only to vessels using pelagic trawl gear. During 1996-1999, an average of 8 permits fished in the waters listed in #1 above; the greatest harvest occurred in 1998 when approximately 8.7 million pounds (3,941 MT) were harvested. The average harvest within these statistical areas by mid-water pelagic trawlers is approximately 4.4 million pounds (1,982 MT). (See Table 1) All fishing would occur under the terms of a Commissioner's Permit (Sec. 16.05.050 (10), and specifically 5 AAC 28.379). The permit could specify fishing season, area, gear, logbook requirements, landing requirements, observer requirements, bycatch limits, etc. Existing statewide regulation (5 AAC 28.073) establishes trip limits not to exceed 300,000 pounds (approximately 136 MT). Daily limits equal to the trip limits would also be imposed. The use of tenders in the fishery would be prohibited.
3. Two harvest options are being considered: Option A would establish a state waters season in which the total harvest would be limited to 1,500 MT, with the opening date coinciding with the CGOA pollock A season and an emergency order closure when the harvest level was achieved. Option B would establish a parallel season wherein open season dates would coincide with the CGOA pollock A season and no state harvest limit would be imposed.
4. 100 percent onboard observer coverage would be used to monitor the harvest and VMS would be required.
5. Only those vessels holding a valid Commissioner's Permit would be allowed to participate in the fishery. Preseason vessel registration requirements will indicate fishery participation levels. For Option A, if registration levels indicate that participation levels will be too high to ensure that the harvest limit of 1,500 MT will not be exceeded, the commissioner shall close the fishery by Emergency Order.
6. Fishery duration would vary under each option above.
7. See #6.

Table 1. Pollock harvest from those statistical areas within Cook Inlet Management Area that would open to pollock fishing under this proposal.

Year	Vessels	Pounds	Metric tons
1996	5	1,937,926	879
1997	6	3,873,854	1,757
1998	12	8,689,896	3,941
1999	10	2,983,335	1,353
Average	8	4,371,253	1,982

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fishing in state waters for walleye pollock will remain closed in Steller sea lion protected areas.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Unknown.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen wanting to harvest walleye pollock in state waters that are currently closed, processors that currently have little or no opportunity to purchase pollock, and coastal communities that are economically affected by large-scale pollock

fishing closures will benefit from access to the pollock resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unknown

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Alaska Board of Fisheries (HQ-06F-002)

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