

PROPOSAL 20 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan. Define waters between 175° W long to 178° W long as the Adak District in the Aleutian Islands District state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647(b) – (d) are amended to read:

(b) Each year, the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a parallel season in the Aleutian Islands District [WEST OF 170° W. LONG.], except in the waters **in the Adak Section** [BETWEEN 175° W. LONG. AND 178° W. LONG.], to coincide with the initial federal season in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of the same gear allowed in the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area Pacific cod season is permitted, unless that gear is prohibited under 5 AAC 28.050.

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters season in the Aleutian Islands District as follows:

(1) the **Adak Section** [SEASON IN THE WATERS BETWEEN 175° W. LONG. AND 178° W. LONG.] shall open January 1;

(2) **all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** [IN THE WATERS NOT SPECIFIED IN (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION]

(A) [THAT ARE WEST OF 170° W. LONG., THE SEASON] shall open four days after the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands parallel "A" season for the catcher-vessel trawl fishery is closed; or

...

(3) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the state-waters season **in all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** opened under (1) and (2) of this subsection when the guideline harvest level is taken or on December 31, whichever occurs first; except as otherwise specified in this chapter, all parallel Pacific cod seasons are closed during the state-waters season.

(d) 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 and Aleutian Islands Area; the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest as follows:

(A) a maximum of 70 percent of the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest in the state-waters 'A' season before June 10 as follows:

(i) if the state-waters 'A' season guideline harvest level has not been taken by April 1, when the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery "B" season opens, the commissioner will close, by emergency order, the state-waters 'A' season, **except in waters of the Adak Section**, [IN THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN (c)(2) OF THIS SECTION] and immediately reopen a parallel season;

(ii) if the commissioner determines that an adequate state-waters 'A' season guideline harvest level is available after the federal catcher-vessel trawl fishery "B" season closes, and before June 10, the commissioner may reopen, by emergency order, the state-waters 'A' season in **all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** [THE WATERS SPECIFIED IN (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION];

...

(3) a vessel used to harvest Pacific cod during the

(A) state-waters 'A' season when [THE]

(i) **only waters of the Adak Section** [WATERS SPECIFIED IN (c)(1) OF THIS SECTION] are open, with nonpelagic trawl, mechanical jigging machine, or pot gear, may not be more than 60 feet in overall length, except as specified in (ii) of this paragraph; a vessel using longline gear may not be more than 58 feet in overall length;

(ii) **all waters of the Aleutian Islands District** [COMBINED AREAS OF (c)(1) AND (2)] are open, with nonpelagic trawl gear may not be more than 100 feet in overall length; a vessel using mechanical jigging machines and longline gear may not be more than 58 feet in overall length; a vessel using pot gear may not be more than 125 feet in overall length;

5 AAC 28.647(j) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(j) For the purposes of this section,

...

(3) "Adak Section" means state-waters of the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area between 175° W long. and 178° W long.

(4) "Aleutian Islands District" means all state-waters of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area west of 170° W long., including waters of the Adak Section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Describing the Adak Section rather than referring to longitudes within the district will simplify the management plan. Defining state-waters of the Aleutian Islands District between 175° W longitude and 178° W longitude as the "Adak District" will reduce confusion and simplify the regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-054)
