

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 28.XXX State-Waters Walleye Pollock Management Plans. Establish state-waters walleye pollock jig fishery management plans with guideline harvest levels deducted from total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands areas as follows.

Creation of state-water walleye pollock jig fishery: jig fishing for walleye pollock shall be allowed within state water boundaries of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula areas, and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island districts. State water jig harvests will be deducted from Federal TAC in corresponding Federal areas up to an amount deemed reasonable by the Board of Fisheries. Jig vessels will be limited to a five mechanical jig machines, with a maximum of 30 hooks per machine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, jig fishers throughout the state are unable to harvest pollock when the Federal pollock seasons are closed. Jig fishers operating within state waters need a dedicated state water pollock fishery to satisfy niche and bait markets when Federal pollock seasons are closed. If no action is taken, jig fishers will continue to lose economic opportunity— and niche/bait markets will continue to lose potential of procuring fresh pollock from local jig fleets.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association

(HQ-F15-109)
