

**PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.** Change date that gear limits may be removed in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.537 is amended to:

Give the department the ability to remove gear limits on or after August 14 for all gear types.

(j) If at any time after **August 14** [OCTOBER 30] the commissioner determines that the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod will not be achieved by December 31, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season and immediately reopen a state-waters season during which the following shall be implemented to increase the harvest rate in an attempt to achieve the guideline harvest level;

(1) removal of the limits on the number of groundfish pots and mechanical jigging machines that may be operated from a vessel.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is unharvested rollover fish in the State Water Pacific cod fishery (opening August 14th) which results in lost revenue to the state, harvesters, processors and local boroughs. The fall rollover fish has gone unharvested with limited participation. We would like to see the department given more effective tools to fully harvest this remaining fish. Removing gear limits earlier would increase the chances of harvesting this fish in an economical manner. Cod are normally more dispersed and harder to catch in the fall, resulting in a much lower CPU. With more gear it would possibly be a viable fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Kavanaugh, F/V Sylvia Star, Chris Arndt, F/V Isle Dominator, and Todd Hoppe F/V Deliverance (EF-C15-038)

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