

PROPOSAL 10 – 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 35 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577(h)(1) is amended to read:

(1) The guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is **35** [30] percent of the federal Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) total allowable catch (TAC).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod Guideline Harvest Level to 35% of WGOA ABC, 2012 sector splits in the Western Gulf of Alaska cod season have reduced the opportunity for pot only vessels to harvest cod. Pot only boats have previously participated in the federal parallel season until the entire TAC was caught. In the two years prior to sector splits, pots harvested over 50% of the WGOA TAC.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-094)

PROPOSAL 11 – 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 30 percent to 40 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577(h)(1) is amend to read:

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod on the South Alaska Peninsula area is **40** [30] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of the Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 30% allocation from the Western Gulf of Alaska A.B.C. to the state water fishery is not sufficient.

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-087)

PROPOSAL 12 – 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Apportion the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod allocation for pot vessels by vessel length, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577 is amended to read:

Fishing in Area M 51' to 58' will catch 75% of the allocated quota, and 50' and under will be allowed 25% of the allocated quota.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The pot cod quota in state water should be split so the smaller fleet would be able to compete.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Mack (HQ-F15-074)

PROPOSAL 13 – 5 AAC 28.571. Groundfish pot storage requirements for South Alaska Peninsula Area; and 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Resolve conflict in pot gear storage regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.571. Groundfish pot storage requirements for South Alaska Peninsula Area.

(a) ...rectangular groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and with all doors secured fully open, and cone or pyramid groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors not secured closed may be stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep.

5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(h) During a state-waters season,

...

(2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear, as follows:

...

(E) during the seven days immediately following the opening of the state-waters season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod may store or transport groundfish pots in excess of the pot limit established in (A) of this paragraph if the pots are

(i) stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep as specified in 5 AAC 28.571(a);

or

(ii) are being transported on board the vessel and are not marked with identification tags.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery has a 60-pot limit.

Two South Alaska Peninsula Area groundfish regulations guide shallow water pot storage. The South Alaska Peninsula Area pot storage regulation, 5 AAC 28.571, allows shallow-water storage of groundfish pots during the entire season. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan does not allow shallow-water storage for pots in excess of the pot limit except for the first 7 days of the season.

This proposal provides the board and fishery stakeholders opportunity to resolve storage provisions for pots in excess of the pot limit during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-056)
