

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 28.466. Kodiak Area Rockfish Management Plan. Repeal the five-day stand down period between commercial black rockfish fishing trips and increase the Southeast District trip limit from 5,000 pounds to 10,000 pounds, as follows:

We the undersigned request the mandatory five day "NO FISHING" stand-down between trips be removed. The first two safeguards in place do what is needed to manage black rockfish harvesting. Moreover, black rockfish season takes place during some of the most inclement weather windows here in Alaska during the months of January through April. With the addition of the mandatory 5-day stand-down, the fleet is forced to fish during bad weather putting our lives and small vessels in danger. Please consider this amending this regulation to shut down fishing for five days between trips- it is unfair and hurting our family's livelihood to thrive.

Additionally, we would like you to consider the time it takes to transit from port to fishable areas. From January through April it takes approximately 16 hours to travel one-way to the fishing grounds and often times weather is inclement. In the Southeast district, the time and expense involved with the current 5k pound catch limit makes fishing in that area unfeasible. We are coastal Alaskan fishermen trying to support our families with a majority of us having vessels under 56'. An increase in the black rockfish 5k pound catch limit per trip to a 10k pound catch limit in the Southeast district would help to balance the deficit on paper to reality, keeping us a viable and sustainable fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are three safeguards in place right now to protect the overharvesting of black rockfish in the Kodiak management area. First, there are seven separate districts and each has its own black rockfish catch limits (examples: Northeast 20k pound, Eastside 30k pound). The second safeguard in place is from each district you may take a maximum of 5,000 pounds per trip; further, you must check in with ADF&G for each 5,000 lb trip and re-register for your next trip so your department knows which vessel is fishing and in which district. The third is a mandatory five day "NO FISHING" stand-down period between trips. We are seeking to modify some of these safeguards to increase efficiency for the black rockfish jig fleet.

PROPOSED BY: H. Bruce Magnusson, Ian Alvin A. Brown, Christopher Johnson, Curtis Bollinger, Bob Bowhay, Bobby Evensiosky, Greg Perkins, Robert Martin, Glenn Crocetti, Joseph Yarbrough, Jeffrey Widman (EF-F16-107)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Change date when the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear fishery may be designated as a non-exclusive registration area from October 30 to June 10, as follows:

Change 5 AAC 28.467.(j).(2) from after October 30, if needed, designation of the Kodiak Area as a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

For pot gear, after October 30, if needed, designation of the Kodiak Area as a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod. For jig gear, after June 10, if needed, designation of the Kodiak Area as a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fish and Game has a tool to designate the Kodiak area as a nonexclusive registration area for cod jigging after October 30. Very few jig boats if any are actually fishing after that date, rendering the tool useless. If this date is moved up to June 10, then Fish and Game would have a good idea whether or not the existing fleet would catch the quota. Fish and Game could then allow jig boats to move to an area that would help the fleet catch the remaining quota. This proposal would allow the jig fleet a little more flexibility to catch an otherwise stranded quota after June 10.

PROPOSED BY: Neil Rickman

(EF-F16-159)
