

PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Increase the minimum retention size for lingcod in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area commercial fishery, as follows:

(e) All lingcod retained must measure at least 30" from tip of snout to tip of tail or 22.75" from front of dorsal fin to tip of tail.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the Lingcod minimum length for retention in the commercial fishery from 27" to 30".

Lingcod is a highly valued fish in commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries and as such, should be protected.

1. This can be done without harm to the commercial fishery due to the fact that the allocation is based on pounds, not number of fish.
2. The harvest will not change but the number of fish left in the water for recruitment in future years will increase.
3. The result will be a higher quality product and reduced processing costs.
4. It will bring size limits in line with the lower slot limit for Inside sport fisheries.
5. Lingcod are a hardy fish and can tolerate being released if under the legal size limit.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie

(HQ-F17-087)
