

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Reduce the bag and possession limits for lingcod in a portion of the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

(8) Season July 1 – December 31

One [TWO] per day, **Two** [FOUR] in possession, minimum 35 inches long with the head attached, or 28 inches or greater in length with the head removed, **except, the area south and east of 46 degrees 0 minutes latitude, 147 degrees 0 minutes longitude 2 per day, 2 in possession, minimum 35 inches long with the head attached, or 28 inches or greater in length with head removed.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Steady decline in sport caught ling cod. A more restrictive regulation now may make the fishery sustainable preventing even more restrictive regulations in the future.

Although the total amount of days sport fishermen fished in Prince William / Gulf Coast has remained fairly constant from 2010 – 2015, observations and harvest indicate the stock is declining. Additionally, the more restrictive halibut regulations for charter boat clients has increased pressure on ling cod.

Harvests since 2010:

2010 – 14,013; 2011 - 11,8976; 2012 – 10,728; 2013 – 9,785; 2014 – 9447
2015 – 9,034

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-092)
