

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson

(EF-F17-059)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 28.1XX. New section.

Create a new commercial fishery for spiny dogfish sharks using pot gear in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

Create a new Spiny Dogfish pot fishery in Southeast Alaska with regulations as described below to be determined by ADF&G.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

1. Spiny Dogfish are currently an underutilized fishery.
2. In processing Spiny Dogfish nearly all of the carcass is utilized, (including some organs) except the head. When markets are developed this fishery could provide new revenue streams and opportunities for fishers, processors and communities.
3. Spiny Dogfish tend to travel in large dense packs by size and sex. Longline Spiny Dogfish fisheries in British Columbia's Strait of Georgia have resulted in concerns over the inability to fish selectively, resulting in unwanted harvests of fecund females. A pot fishery could resolve those issues by the fact that the fish are harvested live and can be released unharmed, coupled with regulations on:
 - a. Season duration,
 - b. Pot limits
 - c. Tunnel size
 - d. Escapement rings
 - e. Legal site retention (slot limits)

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie

(HQ-F17-085)

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Establish a regional sablefish nonresident annual limit, as follows:

Restrict Sablefish (Black Cod) as follows:

All areas: [Chatham Strait and Lower Lynn Canal - District 12]

-no size restrictions

-nonresident - 4 daily, 4 in possession, 8 fish annual limit, harvest record required

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An annual bag limit will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource while maintaining angler opportunity to harvest sablefish. Sablefish are a commercially valuable species that have been fully utilized since 1991. Significant sport fishing pressure is a recent occurrence that has increased steadily, with estimated harvests nearly tripling from 2010's estimated harvest of 4,793 fish to 2015's estimated harvest of

13,338 fish. Sablefish biomass is stable, but near historic lows in abundance. Considering this and changing ocean conditions, it is important to carefully manage all user groups to prevent unrestrained growth in harvests. There is currently no limit on entry for sablefish anglers or guides. This proposal allows for angler opportunity, does not limit the number of people that can participate, and ensures reasonable management of a new user group in a fully utilized fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Carina Nichols (EF-F17-123)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow pots as a legal gear type in the Southeastern Alaska Area personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

(2). The new regulation should read something like the following:
"Personal use bottomfish may be taken only by longline, or hand held line , except sablefish may be taken with pots"

Give ADF&G the authority to determine a reasonable number of pots allowed per house-hold permit and per vessel in the sablefish personal use fishery.
The new regulations should exempt pots for sablefish from unlawful gear types in the personal use fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The personal use sablefish fishery takes less than 2% of the region wide catch each year. Since the Department has undergone pot surveys it has shown that by-catch in pots compared to longline is virtually nil.
The use of long line is indiscriminate to what it catches and impossible to target sablefish only.

Longline gear will also catch multiple species that do not fall under the personal use fishery permit such as halibut and long lived sleeper sharks.

There is a greater potential for lost longline gear in the areas and depths at which sablefish are targeted than by using pot gear. Lost longline gear is a hazard for other sport and commercial fisherman and kills off more of the resource indiscriminately.

The use of pots will greatly reduce by-catch, reduce lost gear, and conserve resource. Pots are already legal gear in subsistence only areas.

The regulation [5 AAC 77.674(2)] prohibiting this gear type in personal use areas is broad based language covering all bottom fish species in the personal use fisheries and does not specifically address sablefish and the unique challenges associated with harvesting this specie.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Woodrow (EF-F17-038)

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Change the season opening date for the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict commercial sablefish fishery to coincide with the federal sablefish fishery, as follows:

Opening date for the Southern Southeast Sablefish Fishery to coincide with the opening of the Federal Sablefish IFQ season and closing on November 15th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the opening date for the southeast sablefish fishery to coincide with the Federal sablefish IFQ season.

Currently most of the quota is removed in a month and a half. Depletion of the local stocks are occurring. This could be avoided with a season that is spread out over 9 months. This would allow the local stocks to remain healthy and prevent overfishing at any one time. This would curtail the preemption of invasive species building up and replacing sablefish in their normal habitat.

Currently the last few years have not seen a completed survey. Survey stations have changed, so the quota is really not based on any true numbers. So by extending the season there should be no conflict with the setting of the annual quota.

Currently PWS has a statewater sablefish fishery, and pollock fishery that has their quota based off the federal survey.

Cook Inlet has a statewater sablefish fishery based off the federal survey.

The Aleutians have a statewater sablefish fishery based off the federal survey.

So I believe southern southeast sablefish fishery could also be based off the federal season survey. The additional benefit would be to the state; by saving survey money from the budget.

If this seems to conflict with the state management for any reason and the state needs to do a survey, similar steps could be taken similar to the federal survey and the season could close two weeks prior to the survey or the month of May and the state could perform a survey.

Spreading the season out over nine months is similar to the way many fisheries are managed.

PROPOSED BY: Bill Connor (EF-F17-025)

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Amend gear and season dates for Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

(a)(2) in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, from 8:00 a.m. **March** [JUNE] 1 until 12:00 noon August 15 with longline gear **or pot gear**, and from 8:00 a.m. September 1 **for the three**

existing pot permits until their quota is caught, then all permit holders fishing longline gear or pot gear until 12:00 noon November 15 [WITH POT GEAR].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the timing and allowable gear types for Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict sablefish permit holders.

Several Southern Southeast Sablefish longline permit holders have been unable to fully harvest their quota and thus have not been able to realize the economic benefits of their permits due to marine mammal interaction. Changing the timing and use of gear types will minimize the loss of sablefish due to marine mammal interaction, reduce bycatch and lost bait, increase the average size of fish, and reduce waste caused by hagfish and sand fleas.

The solution I recommend is allowing all sablefish permit holders for the Southern Southeast area to fish using either longline or pot gear at their discretion. Currently there are 22 permit holders, but 19 are required to use longline gear.

PROPOSED BY: John M. Johanson (EF-F17-057)

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Modify fishing seasons in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict commercial sablefish fishery to allow concurrent fishing with pot and longline gear, as follows:

(a) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, sablefish may be taken only as follows:

...

(2) in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, **from 8:00 am June 1 until 12:00 noon November 15 for longline and pot gear.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Longline permit holders in the Southern Southeast Sablefish Fishery will be allowed to use pots to harvest their sablefish beginning in 2018. The longline season is currently June 1 to August 15 for the nineteen permit holders. The current pot fishery allows the three permit holders to fish from September 1 to November 15. All 22 permit holders should have the option to fish either gear for the duration of the current fishing season.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Kittams (EF-F17-107)

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 28.110. Sablefish fishing seasons for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Allow Southern Southeast Inside permit holders the option of using longline or pot gear for sablefish, as follows:

Allow all Southern Southeast Inside permits the option of using longline or pot gear for sablefish. Any permits choosing to continue using longline gear are subject to a quota reduction of 50% to account for higher bycatch and loss to the biomass due to marine mammal predation.