

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan.

Allow pot gear to be longlined during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640 is amended to read:

...

(c) Sablefish may be taken only with pots, longlines, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear. Pots may be longlined in the Aleutian Islands **and Western** Districts [, BUT MAY NOT BE LONGLINED IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT].

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The National Marine Fisheries Service amended federal regulations in 2017 to allow use of longlined pot gear for harvesting sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska IFQ sablefish fishery. Concurrent to the federal fishery, the state opens a state-waters sablefish fishery in the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area. State and federal sablefish regulations are generally aligned to provide consistency for participants that fish in both fisheries. This proposal would realign state and federal gear regulations by allowing for longlined pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-018)
