

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Repeal weather delay provision for jig gear vessels during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577 is amended to read:

...

(l) The opening of the state-waters season **for vessels using pot gear** will be delayed for 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast issued at 4:00 a.m. on the scheduled opening date specified in [(d)(1) AND] (e)(1) of this section for the current day and night or the following day and night for the state waters between Castle Cape and Cape Sarichef contains a gale warning. If, after the initial weather delay, the following day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast for the current day and night or the following day and night contains a gale warning, the opening of the state-waters season will be delayed an additional 24 hours. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days beyond the initial opening date, when the season will open regardless of any gale warning forecast.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulations that delay the start of Pacific cod seasons due to severe weather are intended to provide adequate opportunity for smaller sized vessels to fully participate in competitive fisheries. The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear GHl allocation has not been achieved since 2014 and in recent years the season was open from mid-March through December. Delaying the start of jig gear season for up to seven days due to poor weather does not significantly reduce competition or improve access to the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-021)
