

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Eliminate the 15-million-pound cap in the *Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647 is amended to read:

...

(d) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict is 27 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea; if the guideline harvest level established under this paragraph is achieved in a calendar year, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 31 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 35 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar next year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to a maximum of 39 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; [A GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT EXCEED 15 MILLION POUNDS;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod GHL was initially set at 27% of the Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC. The management plan allows the state-waters GHL to increase by 4% per year for 3 years if the GHL was caught previous year. However, the overall GHL is also capped at 15 million pounds by regulation. The 2018 Aleutian Islands Pacific cod ABC was 47 million pounds and at 29% of the ABC the 2018 GHL totaled 12.8 million pounds. The 2018 GHL was caught which will increase the GHL from 29% to 31% of the ABC for 2019. If cod abundance levels are similar or higher in 2019, the GHL will hit the 15 million pound cap after just 1 of 3 potential GHL increases. The potential for higher GHLs provides incentive for fishermen and allows the state-waters fishery to develop over time. Capping harvest at 15 million pounds unnecessarily restricts the state-waters fishery and is inconsistent with incrementally increasing the GHL when the fishery is fully utilized.

PROPOSED BY: Ron Kavanaugh

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