

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 28.306. Cook Inlet Area registration.

Add specific registration requirements for Cook Inlet Area groundfish fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.306 is amended to read:

...

(x) In the Cook Inlet Area, prior to operating a vessel in a directed fishery for lingcod and pelagic shelf rockfish, sablefish, Pacific cod during a parallel season, or Pacific cod during a state-waters season as described in 5 AAC 28.367, the vessel operator or authorized agent must obtain a fishery-specific registration for that vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to implement fishery-specific registration requirements for Cook Inlet Registration Area (CI) groundfish fisheries not currently specified in regulation. Some requirements of area registration are described under statewide regulation 5 AAC 28.020, including that a registration must be obtained before a vessel operates gear within a registration area and specifies the conditions that invalidate a registration. In the CI, there are fishery-specific registration requirements listed for sablefish under 5 AAC 28.360. However, aside from describing exclusivity for gear types in the Pacific cod state-waters season, there are no clear requirements for registration in the Pacific cod, lingcod, pelagic shelf rockfish, or sablefish fisheries described under 5 AAC 28.306. This has caused some confusion for CI fishermen registered in a nonexclusive parallel Pacific cod season to consider themselves also registered for the nonexclusive directed lingcod and pelagic shelf rockfish fishery. Although the *CI Pacific Cod Management Plan*, 5 AAC 28.367(e)(2)(C), states that registration is required for the state-waters season, specifying registration requirements for each CI groundfish fishery and identifying these registration requirements in CI regulations would provide clarity. A similar regulation was adopted by the board at the Prince William Sound meeting in December 2017.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

(HQ-F19-162)
