

PROPOSAL 3

5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Clarify possession and landing requirements for the parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

Add a new subsection (k) to read:

(k) An operator of a vessel participating in a parallel Pacific cod season in the Prince William Sound Area may not operate gear in any other registration area during the same trip.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Within the Prince William Sound Area (PWS), vessels participating in the federal/parallel Pacific cod fishery may fish in both state and federal waters on the same trip, if they meet federal requirements. However, vessels may only be registered for one registration area at a time as provided in 5 AAC 28.020 (b)(1) and are required to register for the PWS parallel Pacific cod fishery. Therefore, if a vessel participates in the parallel Pacific cod fishery, the vessel must remain in the registration area for that trip. If the vessel were to fish in the adjacent Cook Inlet Area during that trip, for example, the vessel registration for the PWS parallel Pacific cod fishery would be invalidated and the vessel would no longer be in compliance with registration requirements. Clarifying allowable fishing activity in regulation under 5 AAC 28.367 would reduce confusion for the public regarding Cook Inlet Area requirements.

A similar regulation was adopted by board for the Cook Inlet Area in December 2019.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-130)
