

**PROPOSAL 2**

**5 AAC 28.271. Landing Requirements for Prince William Sound Area.**

Add a 6-hour prior notice of landing requirement for the Prince William Sound Area directed lingcod fishery, as follows:

Add a new subsection (b) to read:

**(b) At least six hours before landing lingcod, an operator of a vessel participating in the Prince William Sound Area directed lingcod fishery must notify the department by telephone, to a telephone number specified in writing by the department on the registration forms at the time of registration, the following information:**

- (1) vessel name and ADF&G number;**
- (2) date and location of landing, and estimated time of arrival;**
- (3) name of fish buyer or processor;**
- (4) estimated number of pounds of lingcod on board the vessel.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is no prior notice of landing (PNOL) regulatory requirement for vessels participating in the Prince William Sound Area (PWS) directed lingcod fishery. Biological sampling of the lingcod and rockfish bycatch harvested during the fishery is coordinated out of the Homer ADF&G office. Although the majority of landings have historically occurred in Cordova, there has been an increase in recent years of deliveries occurring in Seward across time. Staff must travel by state vehicle from Homer to Seward in order to meet landings, which takes approximately 4 hours for the drive alone. Additionally, Cordova staffing is limited and having a PNOL would assist in ensuring sampling coverage. Offloading happens quickly and the opportunity to sample landings may easily be missed if there is no notification beforehand. Therefore, having a PNOL in place for this fishery would assist in achieving sampling goals. Additionally, a PNOL requirement allows Alaska Wildlife Troopers to be notified about upcoming deliveries, providing a coordinated enforcement opportunity. There are PNOL regulations for the PWS sablefish fishery and the Cook Inlet Area (CI) sablefish and directed CI rockfish fisheries; the board also adopted a 6-hour PNOL for CI lingcod in December 2019. Landings during those CI fisheries frequently occur in Seward and are covered by the same Homer staff. Having PNOLs in place for all of these groundfish fisheries maintains consistency between regulations and could also potentially result in higher productivity and efficiency for the Central Region sampling program since it may allow for more deliveries to be covered during a single sampling trip. There is overlap of participants with the PWS and CI lingcod, and rockfish fisheries, and vessels are able to comply with PNOL requirements. Therefore, it would be expected that vessels would also be able to comply with the same requirement for the PWS lingcod fishery.

This proposal seeks to implement PNOL requirements for the PWS directed lingcod fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-129)

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