

**PROPOSAL 171 (formerly ACR 8) – 5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.** Allow groundfish pots to be longlined in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.230(c) is amended to read:

(c) A groundfish pot may [NOT] be attached to a line connected to another groundfish pot, **including in** the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery. [,] **Groundfish** [GROUND FISH] pots may be connected if each end of the buoy line is marked as specified in (d) of this section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, longlining of ground fish pots is prohibited, except in the Prince William Sound (PWS) sablefish fishery. With the advent of the “slinky” pot, this regulation is now outdated. There currently is a 15% allocation of the PWS Pacific cod quota that goes unharvested due to lack of interest in traditional single pot fishing. The use of longlined slinky pots would allow existing and new entrants to participate in harvesting the pot allocation.

Halibut and rockfish bycatch in the Pacific cod fishery could be reduced if the use of longlined slinky pots is authorized.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Jones