

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend South Alaska Peninsula season opening weather delay criteria, as follows:

5 AAC 28.577(l) is amended to read:

(l) The opening of the state-waters season for vessels using pot gear will be delayed for 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast issued at 4:00 a.m. on the scheduled opening date specified in (e)(1) of this section [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT FOR THE STATE WATERS BETWEEN CASTLE CAPE AND CAPE SARICHEF] contains a gale warning. If, after the initial weather delay, the following day's 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service marine forecast [FOR THE CURRENT DAY AND NIGHT OR THE FOLLOWING DAY AND NIGHT] contains a gale warning, the opening of the state-waters season will be delayed an additional 24 hours. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days beyond the initial opening date, when the season will open regardless of any gale warning forecast. **For the purposes of this subsection, the corresponding National Weather Service marine forecast area for the South Alaska Peninsula Area is Area PKZ155.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulations established to delay opening of the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters commercial Pacific cod season is based on National Weather Service (NWS) marine weather forecasts. However, existing regulations do not reflect current NWS forecasting areas and practices. The state-waters Pacific cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is delayed if a gale warning is forecasted during the 48-hour period beginning the day the fishery is scheduled to start. However, current NWS marine warnings only extend 36 hours beyond the initial forecast. Additionally, forecasting areas have been redefined since these regulations were established. This proposal aligns weather delay regulations with current NWS forecasting areas and practices.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F22-047)
