

Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Sablefish Management Plan (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Sablefish Management Plan.

Define harvest allocation for the Aleutian Islands and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640 is amended to read:

(b) The commercial fishing season for sablefish in state waters will open and close concurrently with the federal IFQ season for directed fishing for sablefish in adjacent federal waters, unless closed by emergency order. **During a state-waters season, the combined guideline harvest level for sablefish in the Aleutian Islands District and the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula is 5 percent of the federal acceptable biological catch for sablefish in the combined federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Subareas.**

...

(j) In this section, “acceptable biological catch” means the annual acceptable biological catch (ABC) established by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands sablefish, including the harvest of sablefish in a state -waters season defined in this subsection.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Aleutian Islands and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters sablefish fishery was established in 1995. The initial GHL of 400,000 pounds was based on annual average harvest that occurred inside state waters of these districts for the previous four years. This harvest represented approximately 5% of the annual combined federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands sablefish ABC. The GHL has been fixed at 5% of the federal ABC since 2006, however, the allocation was never defined in regulation. Formalizing the Aleutian Islands sablefish GHL allocation in regulation will provide stability and transparency for managers and stakeholders participating in this fishery.

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PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-050)
