

Commercial Fisheries (groundfish) (4 proposals)

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 28.365. Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan and 5 AAC 58.022 Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Reduce Cook Inlet commercial and sport rockfish harvest limits as follows:

Reduce the commercial GHF to an appropriate level along with the reduction in sport fisheries. Both sport and commercial black rock fisheries need to be addressed together.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Potential over harvest of black rock fish by sport and commercial fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Hagberg (HQ-F23-108)

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 28.3XX New Section and 5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet - Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area.

Reduce Cook Inlet commercial and sport lingcod harvest as follows:

Reduce the commercial GHF of ling cod in Cook Inlet with the reduction of sport harvest limits. Both sport and commercial fisheries need to be harvested together for the health of this fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Over harvest of Cook Inlet ling cod by sport and commercial harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Hagberg (HQ-F23-085)

PROPOSAL 27

5AAC 28.310. Fishing Seasons for Cook Inlet Area.

Open the Cook Inlet commercial sablefish season earlier as follows:

Change the starting date of Cook Inlet sable fish opener to be the same as Prince William Sound.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal is to change the date of Cook Inlet sable fish from the current July 15th date to April 15th. The April 15 date coincides with the state water PWS sable fish opener.

With the change of date, it will provide greater opportunity for a longer season to catch the quota. Sable fish tend to come into shallow waters in the spring.

If the date isn't changed as proposed, the quota would likely be unharvested.

PROPOSED BY: Randy Arsenault

(EF-F23-037)

PROPOSAL 28

5 AAC 28.367. Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Change gear group allocation in the *Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan* as follows:

Transfer unfished Cook Inlet state water Pacific cod jig quota to pots on July 15 and allow 100% retention for pacific cod only during the sablefish fishery using pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the state water sablefish fishery in Cook Inlet which opens July 15 Pacific cod bycatch is only 20%. I participated in that fishery before and some years we caught way more pacific cod than actual target of sablefish. My proposal is to transfer unfished state water jig quota to the pots sector on July 15 and allow 100% retention of Pacific cod while fishing sablefish with pots. This would eliminate waste of Pacific cod because they get bloated coming up from the deep and die because you can only keep 20% bycatch of Pacific cod.

PROPOSED BY: Dia Kuzmin

(EF-F23-139)
