

**PROPOSAL 13**

**5 AAC 28.267. Prince William Sound Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Increase bycatch limits for skates in the Prince William Sound Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

Allow 100% bycatch retention of long nose and big skate during the P.W.S. state water longline directed pacific cod and halibut fisheries until 25% of the Eastern gulf Federal TAC has been reached for skate. Before the federal pacific cod qouta reduction and with decreased skate bycatch allowance from 20% to 5% now there is alot less skate being harvested. Most years the federal skate TAC is around 50% being harvested. With recent reduced pacific cod qoutas skate harvest is very minimal now. It would give more opportunities for the mostly small vessel boat fleet and the local economies a needed boost.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Under current regulations there is very limited opportunity to harvest skate. Over the last several years some years large percentages of the Eastern gulf Federal TAC go unharvested. This is a very healthy resource that once supported a lucrative directed fishery. It currently is under utilized and could provide major economic benefits to coastal communities.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Dia Kuzmin

(EF-F24-104)

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