

PROPOSAL 200

5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Adopt a catch reporting requirement for directed lingcod fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.173 (h) is added to read:

(h) In a directed lingcod fishery, CFEC permit holders shall contact the department at a telephone number or other means specified by the department at the time of registration and provide the following information to the department as required :

- (1) the CFEC permit holder's name;**
- (2) the name of the vessel;**
- (3) the groundfish management area(s) in which they are fishing;**
- (4) the number of lingcod retained in each management area;**
- (5) the number of hours fished in each management area; and**
- (6) other information requested by the department for the purpose of managing and conserving lingcod resources.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The directed fishery for lingcod is fast paced. The East Yakutat Section directed lingcod fishery has the largest allocation (111,000 round lb) and this has been harvested in three days or less on average. The department must make quick decisions on closures based on the approximate catch from each fishing vessel, typically within the first 24 hours of fishing. The department currently asks permit holders to report their catch every 12 to 24 hours for most management areas but compliance is inconsistent and sometimes low. This has resulted in underharvest and overharvest in the directed fisheries. This proposal seeks to implement a catch reporting requirement to assist with lingcod management and promote lingcod conservation by preventing overharvesting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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