

PROPOSAL 202

5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Clarify that only one line can be used for dinglebar gear in the lingcod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 (h)(1) is amended to read:

(h) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area,

(1) **an operational unit of** dinglebar troll gear [IS GEAR THAT] consists of a single line, **referred to hereafter as a “train,” to which one or more leaders, lures, or baited hooks are attached,** that is **fastened to a single troll wire, and is deployed and** retrieved [AND SET] with a **single power** troll gurdy or **single** hand troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight [FROM WHICH ONE OR MORE LEADERS WITH ONE OR MORE LURES OR BAITED HOOKS] pulled through the water while a vessel is making way; only one **operational unit of dinglebar troll gear** [TROLL GURDY LINE OR HAND TROLL GURDY LINE] may be **onboard a vessel or** deployed **from the vessel at or below the surface of the sea** [IN THE WATER] at any time; **all weights, including dinglebars, cannon balls, and other fishing weights must be disconnected from the troll wires of all other gurdies that are mounted on the vessel, and additional trains may not be trailed behind the vessel at any time.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Vessels participating in the directed lingcod fishery with dinglebar gear are operating multiple lines at the same time leading to increased harvest rates; because of this, permit holders are exceeding guideline harvest levels. There is confusion within the fleet over what constitutes operation of a single line as well as what dinglebar gear is, and reports have suggested that some vessels may be deploying a second line once retrieval of the first line has begun. Vessels fishing in this manner have an advantage over vessels exclusively operating a single line because it takes time to haul gear to the surface, pull the train in, bring lingcod aboard, and then redeploy the gear back to depth. The intent of the original regulation was for fishers to have only one troll wire with one train on board and available to fish, establishing a pace for the fishery as fishers must remove fish from hooks and get the train ready to be deployed again. The amended language serves to clarify the intention of this regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-148)
