

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.

Allow the concurrent use of longline gear and sablefish pot gear in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Amend the legislation to read:

(j) Except as provided in sections (k) **and (l)**, in a groundfish fishery, a person may have only one type of legal gear on board the vessel.

(l) When participating in PWS sablefish fishery or Halibut IFQ, longline gear and sablefish pot gear (as defined in subsection c) may be used at the same time. If longline gear and sablefish pot gear are being used under this subsection, only that gear may be on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the combined use of pot gear and longline gear by fishermen participating in the PWS sablefish fisheries and the halibut IFQ fisheries. Currently a fisherman is not allowed to use both hooks and pots during the same trip in state waters. This needs to be changed to account for the recent adoption of black cod pots by the fleet. There isn't a restriction like this in the federal fishery, and because of this the fleet has been able to experiment with using pots to target black cod and halibut. Using pots reduces bycatch of non-target species like rockfish and also eliminates whale depredation. These are two things that should be encouraged in state waters.

Allowing both gear types to be used simultaneously in state waters will benefit fishermen and the resource in numerous ways: small boats could begin to use some pots, when normally they can only fish a limited number of sablefish pots and would fish hooks for combo black cod and halibut trips; fishermen could to continue to experiment with using pots to harvest halibut, which will result in lowered bycatch of rockfish and whale depredation; and it will eliminate a legal gray area for fishermen transiting state waters with pots and hooks aboard after fishing federal waters.

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

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)

(EF-F24-132)
