

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 28.272. Sablefish harvest, possession, and landing requirements for Prince William Sound Area.

Prohibit the retention of sablefish from state waters, as follows:

Modify subsection (g) of 5 AAC 28.272. Sablefish harvest, possession, and landing requirements for Prince William Sound Area.

(g) An operator of a vessel retaining sablefish in federal waters may not [OPERATE GEAR] **retain sablefish** in state waters of the Prince William Sound Area during the same trip.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations make it impossible for an operator who owns federal sablefish quota to move between federal and state waters during a halibut trip. This is because when fishing in federal waters, a fisherman is required to retain sablefish if they have quota shares aboard whether or not they are target sablefish. This creates a situation where once a trip is started halibut fishing in PWS, the operator is not able to move to federal waters if they find poor fishing or unacceptable amounts of bycatch without first making an expensive run back to port to deliver. We believe the intent of this regulation was to prevent sablefish caught in federal or state waters being sold as one or the other. However, that is not a realistic scenario and will still be prevented under our proposed language and under standwide regulation 5AAC 28.070. This simple change in regulatory language will increase efficiency for fishermen and also has the potential to lower rockfish bycatch in PWS.

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-F24-133)
