

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 28.360. Cook Inlet Sablefish Management Plan. Clarify procedures for obtaining and submitting log sheets for the Cook Inlet commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.360(b) is amended to read:

(b) An operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery shall obtain **sablefish log sheets** [AND COMPLETE A SABLEFISH LOGBOOK] provided by the department **at the time of registration**. The vessel operator must have the **log sheets** [LOGBOOK] on board the vessel at all times and must submit to the **department’s office in Homer completed corresponding log sheets within 10 days after each landing of sablefish** [DEPARTMENT EACH LOGBOOK PAGE THAT CORRESPONDS WITH EACH ADF&G SABLEFISH FISH TICKET].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Although the current regulation requires submission of completed logbooks, it does not specify the timeline when logbooks are due. A similar regulation as proposed exists for the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery as defined in 5 AAC 28.272(f) which requires that log sheets must be received within 10 days after each landing at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) Cordova office. The Cook Inlet sablefish fishery is managed out of the department’s Homer office and timely receipt of log sheets is necessary for corroboration of harvest and effort data. Typically, fishermen delivering to a processor will submit log sheet(s) to industry staff when completing the fish ticket and the buyer will submit the log sheet with the fish ticket to the department. This practice works well since it is specified in regulation that fish tickets are due to the department within 7 days of landing (5 AAC 39.130(c)). However, it is still the fisherman’s responsibility to submit the log sheet and for those fishermen that do not submit their log sheets to a buyer, a clear deadline needs to be specified in regulation for when log sheets are due to the department. This proposal seeks to implement a 10-day deadline following a sablefish landing when log sheets are due to the department’s office in Homer for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery.

Other proposed changes in the regulatory language are to clarify that log sheets are provided by the department, rather than “logbooks”, and that these blank log sheet pages may be faxed, e-mailed, or copied to replenish a fisherman’s supply. Additionally, there may be multiple fish tickets issued for a single landing if there is more than one permit being used and/or more than one species being targeted (e.g., a combination Pacific cod and sablefish trip). However, log sheets correspond to a single landing, and therefore the proposed amended language clarifies that distinction.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)
