

PROPOSAL 7

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

Clarify lawful gear requirements for Prince William Sound Area groundfish fisheries, as follows:

Add two new subsections (j) and (k) to read:

(j) Except as provided in (k) of this section, in a groundfish fishery for which more than one type of gear is legal gear, a person may have only one type of gear on board the vessel.

(k) In a groundfish fishery, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear may be used at the same time and either or both constitute jig gear. If mechanical jigging machines and hand troll 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? Prince William Sound Area (PWS) groundfish fisheries are typically managed with different requirements depending on the gear type used, including for example harvest allocations for Pacific cod during the state-waters season. CFEC permit cards are issued for a specific gear type and it is required that harvest on fish tickets must be reported by gear type. Area registrations and logbooks are issued for a specific gear type. Estimates of catch per unit effort are calculated based on parameters that apply to a single gear type. In current PWS regulations, it is not specified that only one gear type may be on board a vessel. The one exception is jig gear which is comprised of two gear types, mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear, which may be on board the vessel and used at the same time. There is language in the *PWS Pacific Cod Management Plan 28.267(e)(3)(C)* that specifies participants in a state-waters season for Pacific cod may not be simultaneously registered to fish with more than one gear type, except for mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear. However, it is not specified that more than one gear type may not be onboard the vessel. This proposal would clarify that for all PWS groundfish fisheries only one gear type may be onboard the vessel, with the exception of jig gear. There are similar regulations as these proposed, for the Cook Inlet Area under Lawful gear for Cook Inlet Area, 5 AAC 28.330.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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