

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Limit the amount of Pacific cod that may be onboard a vessel participating in the Dutch Harbor subdistrict Pacific cod fishery to 150,000 pounds and require daily harvest reports, as follows:

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(e) During a state-waters season,

(A) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is 6.4 percent of the estimated total harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea;

(B) A vessel may not have more than 150,000 round pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod onboard the vessel at any time; a vessel may not have onboard the vessel more processed fish than the round weight equivalent of the fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets; a validly registered vessel must report daily to the department the pounds of Pacific cod taken and on board the vessel;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The increasing size and efficiency of the 58' and under Bering Sea Area O pot cod fishery is increasingly putting the smaller vessels that prosecute the fishery at a greater disadvantage. The size of the largest 58' foot vessels prosecuting the fishery does not resemble a small boat fishery. A change in regulations is needed to slow the pace and increase the season length.

If nothing is done larger boats will continue to take an increasingly large proportion of the GHL making smaller and entry level vessels increasingly less economically viable in prosecuting the fishery.

Capacity size restrictions were considered and rejected. Larger vessels are safer and more comfortable to work from and the Larger capacity can be utilized in other fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Wilder

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