

Chairman Morisky

Alaska Board of Fish

We would like to bring forward our concerns regarding the Board of Fish's recent action adopting new regulation for the Adak State Waters cod fishery this past January in Kodiak. The Board had generated a proposal that would have taken an additional step towards aligning Adak's State cod fishery with State Cod fisheries throughout the BS and GOA. The Board's proposal would have given vessels 60 feet or less in the Trawl, Pot, and Jig sector as well as the vessels 58 feet or less in the long line sector, more opportunity to harvest Pacific cod in the Adak section of the AIS prior to larger vessels entering the fishery.

This request was urgent and necessary due to current changes in federal and state dynamics and regulations.

The Board's original language made a simple change to the fishery that eliminated a trigger opening the fishery to larger vessels 4 days after the federal fishery closes. This change was significant because it preserved the more traditional relaxation date (March 15th). During the January 11th Board of Fish meeting, an individual requested substitute language that allowed pot vessels up to 93.5 feet access 4 days after. Arguing that it allowed 2-3 vessels with historical use to participate. This language was considered and substitute language including vessels 100 or less was adopted by the Board with the Board feeling that this language gave just a few boats historical access to the Adak State water fishery.

It is now clear that there is no historical dependence and only two deliveries (2018) made by the proposer of the substitution. It is also clear that there are many more vessels that will qualify for participation in the AIS state water fishery upon closure of the federal season.

Our goal has always been to provide a state water cod fishery for Adak that is consistent statewide; that the design preserves an orderly fishery and product quality; and the steps to do this provide stability to the Adak community.

Ron Kavanaugh

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