

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 28.371. Landing Requirements for Cook Inlet Area.

Add a 6-hour prior notice of landing requirement for the Cook Inlet Area directed lingcod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.371 is amended to read:

...

(x) At least six hours before landing lingcod, an operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet Area lingcod fishery must notify the department by telephone, to a telephone number specified in writing by the department on the registration forms at the time of registration, the following information:

- (1) vessel name and ADF&G number;**
- (2) date and location of landing, and estimated time of arrival;**
- (3) name of fish buyer or processor;**
- (4) estimated number of pounds of lingcod on board the vessel.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal seeks to implement PNOL requirements for the CI directed lingcod fishery to facilitate biological assessment, improve inseason management, and aid enforcement. There is no prior notice of landing (PNOL) regulatory requirement for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet Area (CI) directed lingcod fishery. Biological sampling of the lingcod and rockfish bycatch harvested during the fishery is coordinated out of Homer and a majority of deliveries occur in Seward. Staff must travel by state vehicle from Homer to Seward in order to meet landings, which takes approximately 4 hours for the drive alone. Offloading happens quickly and the opportunity to sample landings can easily be missed if there is no notification beforehand. Therefore, having a PNOL in place for this fishery would assist in achieving sampling goals. Additionally, a PNOL requirement allows Alaska Wildlife Troopers to be notified about upcoming deliveries, providing a coordinated enforcement opportunity. Similar regulations were adopted by the board for both the CI sablefish and directed rockfish fisheries in 2016, and the requirement also exists for the Prince William Sound Area sablefish fishery; landings during all of those fisheries frequently occur in Seward and are covered by the same Homer staff as CI lingcod landings. Having PNOLs in place for all of these groundfish fisheries maintains consistency between regulations and also could potentially result in higher productivity and efficiency for the Central Region sampling program as it may allow for more deliveries to be covered during a single sampling trip. There is overlap of participants between the CI directed lingcod and rockfish fisheries and vessels are able to comply with the PNOL requirements for the rockfish fishery. Therefore, it would be expected that vessels would also be able to comply with the same requirement for the CI lingcod fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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