

Pacific cod (6 proposals)

**This proposal will be heard at the LCI and Kodiak meetings, and deliberated at the Kodiak meeting.*

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 28.005. Registration areas established.

Exempt vessels using jig gear from exclusive and superexclusive groundfish registration restrictions, as follows:

Simply exempt vessels using jig gear from the exclusive and super exclusive registration requirements.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the exclusive and super exclusive designations for all state waters cod registration areas for vessels using jig gear. This would alleviate some of stranded GHL and permit vessels to take cod in different areas as conditions warrant.

PROPOSED BY: Gregory Gabriel (EF-F19-082)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Allow six lines per mechanical jigging machine and six machines per vessel to be operated in the Kodiak Area Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.430. Lawful Gear for Kodiak Area.

(f) In the Kodiak Area, a mechanical jigging machine used to take groundfish may not have more than

- (1) six [FIVE] lines; and
- (2) 30 hooks per line.

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific cod management plan. (h)(2)(B)

(B) no more than six [FIVE] mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have been involved in the Pacific cod jig fishery since the year 2000. I operate out of Kodiak mostly, but have taken my vessel twice to the Bering Sea as well to jig cod. My proposal is to help increase production by increasing the number of jig machines allowed from five machines to six. This would allow myself and two crewmembers to work two machines apiece. With five machines one of my crew is stuck operating only one. This throws off the efficiency of soak time, which slows down the rhythm of my operation. When the conditions are right, I would be able to pull more jigs per day that would have the same amount of soak time. Having this extra machine will increase production. In recent years, large amounts of jig quota have been left on the table. My goal with this proposal is to increase the harvest of the quota in the jig sector.

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Amend Kodiak Area Pacific cod state-waters guideline harvest level allocation to 40 percent jig gear and 60 percent pot gear, and amend the allocation annually based on harvest levels the previous year, as follows:

Adjust the current 50/50 allocation between jig gear and pot gear in the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery to 60% allocated to pot gear and 40% allocated to jig gear. In addition, the annual jig gear allocation will step up or step down by 5% based on jig gear fishery performance during the previous year. The jig gear allocation may not exceed 50% or be reduced below 20% regardless of fishery performance.

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(c) Each year the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a state-waters season in the Kodiak Area for mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and for pot gear. [AS FOLLOWS;] **For purposes of this section, when a state-waters season for Pacific cod is opened to mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear or pot gear, the parallel season for the applicable gear type is closed. Beginning with the 2021 state-waters season,**

(1) mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear is allocated 40 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level and pot gear is allocated 60 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level; [WHEN A STATE-WATERS SEASON FOR PACIFIC COD IS OPENED FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR, THE PARALLEL SEASON FOR THE APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE IS CLOSED; THE FISHING SEASON FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR WILL CLOSE WHEN THE APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE TAKES 50 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL KODIAK AREA GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL;]

(A) if the jig gear allocation established under this paragraph is not achieved in a calendar year, the jig gear allocation will decrease by 5 percent and the pot gear allocation will increase by 5 percent beginning the next calendar year, but the jig gear allocation may not be reduced below 20 percent of the Kodiak Area guideline harvest level;

(B) if the jig gear allocation established under this paragraph is achieved in a calendar year, the jig gear allocation will increase by 5 percent and the pot gear allocation will decrease by 5 percent beginning the next calendar year, but the jig gear allocation may not exceed 50 percent of the Kodiak Area guideline harvest level;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear GHL allocation is not fully harvested in most years. Fully harvesting the GHL would benefit the community of Kodiak and the industry as a whole.

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase the guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area to 17.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod in the Central Gulf of Alaska Area and increase the pot gear allocation of the GHL to 65 percent, as follows:

Increase the percentage of Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod ABC taken by the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery from 12.5% to 17.5% and allocate that additional ABC to the pot gear fishery.

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(c) Each year the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a state-waters season in the Kodiak Area for mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and for pot gear. [AS FOLLOWS;] **For purposes of this section, when a state-waters season for Pacific cod is opened to mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear or pot gear, the parallel season for the applicable gear type is closed. During the state-waters season,**

(1) mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear is allocated 35 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level and pot gear is allocated 65 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level; [WHEN A STATE-WATERS SEASON FOR PACIFIC COD IS OPENED FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR, THE PARALLEL SEASON FOR THE APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE IS CLOSED; THE FISHING SEASON FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR WILL CLOSE WHEN THE APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE TAKES 50 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL KODIAK AREA GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL;]

...

(h) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area is **17.5** [12.5] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fleet has a consistent track record of harvesting the full pot gear GHL allocation and additional harvest opportunity would benefit the largely local fleet and the community of Kodiak.

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Add unharvested Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear quota to the pot gear allocation the following calendar year, as follows:

Any unharvested Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear quota shall be added to the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear GHL allocation the following calendar year. This would not change the GHL allocations between gear types, but it would allow pot boats to catch any unharvested jig gear quota during the following years' state-waters pot gear fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear GHL allocation is not fully harvested in most years. Fully harvesting the GHL would benefit the community of Kodiak and the industry as a whole.

PROPOSED BY: DJ Vinberg (HQ-F19-081)

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Open a Kodiak Area commercial pot gear Pacific cod fishery on May 8 for half of the remaining jig gear allocation, as follows:

If on May 1, the commissioner determines that the jig gear GHL allocation will not be taken by June 10, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the state-waters season for vessels using pot gear at 12:00 noon May 8 and make 50% of the remaining jig gear GHL allocation available for harvest by vessels using pot gear. This action will be based on the department's inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, and remaining Pacific cod GHL.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Jig Association (AJA) supports small vessel harvesters and we appreciate the importance of Pacific cod utilized by multiple gear types in the Kodiak Area. Owing to the cyclical nature of inshore Pacific cod biomass fluctuations, the jig fleet does not always fully harvest their GHL allocation. We stand adamantly against a permanent reallocation from the jig sector, as this gear type represents entry level and small scale harvesting opportunities; however we are not opposed to sharing our allocation with the pot fleet during seasons of low jig harvest. This proposal seeks to provide additional economic benefit to the state-waters Pacific cod fleet and Kodiak Area communities at large.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association (HQ-F19-087)
