

**PROPOSAL 278**

**5 AAC 28.606. Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area Registration; and 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Designate the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod, as follows:

5 AAC 28.606 is amended to read:

5 AAC 28.606 (a) [REPEALED]

5 AAC 28.647 is amended to read:

(f) The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict is an an [NONEXCLUSIVE] **exclusive** registration area for Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict (AIS) is a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod. The adjacent Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters pot gear fishery is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. Currently, a vessel that participates in the DHS may also participate in the AIS in the same year.

A shore-based processor in Adak started processing Aleutian Islands Pacific cod in 2017. Since that time, effort has increased and the GHF has been fully harvested. Declines in Pacific cod abundance in the Gulf of Alaska has additionally redistributed state-waters fishing effort away from fisheries in GOA to the BSAI. This change has increased effort and competition among users and reduced season lengths in the DHS and AIS.

During recent years the DHS has closed prior to the AIS allowing for an influx of Dutch Harbor pot boats to enter the Aleutian Islands fishery mid-season, creating a race for fish and added competition for Aleutians fishermen.

**PROPOSED BY:** The City of Adak and the Adak Community Development Corporation  
(Formerly ACR 7)

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**PROPOSAL 282**

**5 AAC 75.003. Emergency order authority.**

Extend emergency order authority to restrict stocked waters to no retention in times of low hatchery production or stocked waters contamination, as follows:

5 AAC 75.003 is amended to read:

**(5) In stocked waters, if waters become contaminated or during times of low hatchery output, the commissioner may, by emergency order, modify methods and means, reduce bag limits, or institute a catch-and-release fishing only fishery.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The department emergency order authority does not allow stocked waters to be restricted to no retention (catch-and-release) in times of low hatchery production or if stocked waters become contaminated. The only option the department has under current emergency order authority is to close the lake and not provide sport fishing opportunity.

In 2019, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFOS/PFAS) above the federal health advisory levels were detected in stocked waters in the Fairbanks area and two stocked lakes were closed to sport fishing as a precautionary measure due to potential health concerns. While consumption of fish contaminated with PFOS/PFAS may not be advisable, these fisheries could have remained open under catch-and-release fishing only regulations and still provided sport fishing opportunity with an adequately informed public. These lakes have been removed from the Statewide Stocking Plan, but there remain stocked fish in the lakes that could provide sport fishing opportunity. Similar situations may arise with other contaminants, either due to direct spills or indirectly through groundwater contamination.

Secondarily, both Division of Sport Fish hatcheries are producing sufficient stocking products at this time, but if brood stock numbers decline for some reason or other production issues occur, having the authority to reduce bag limits to provide sport fishing opportunity when lower stocking levels are required allows the department some ability to continue to provide diverse fishing opportunities and take pressure off wild fish stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Formerly ACR 12)  
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