

PROPOSAL 1

5 AAC 28.2XX. New section.

Establish a longline skate fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Open a directed longline skate fishery in PWS allocate %25 of longnose and bigskate from the federal eastern gulf tac. Open the fishery with PWS state water longline Pacific cod opening date. If the pacific cod is not open before halibut IFQ season then the PWS state water skate fishery will open with the IFQ season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a longline directed skate fishery in PWS state waters allocate %25 of the eastern gulf federal tac longnose skate and bigskate to PWS state waters. Open the skate fishery concurrent with the PWS longline state water Pacific cod fishery. Before the federal pacific cod quota reduction and shutdown with decreased skate bycatch allowance from %20 to %5 now there is a lot less skate being harvested. Now there is more than %50 of the federal skate tac being unharvested. With reduced ground fish quotas in the gulf the skate harvest is very minimal now. It would give more opportunities for the mostly small vessel boat fleet and the local economies a needed boost.

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