

**PROPOSAL 217**

**5 AAC 28.165. Lingcod allocation guidelines for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.**

Adjust lingcod bycatch allocations between groundfish and salmon fisheries, as follows:

**5 AAC 28.165. Lingcod allocation guidelines for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area**

(5) Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector:

(D) **two**[SEVEN] percent to bycatch in the commercial groundfish fishery using hand troll gear and mechanical jigging machines;

(E) **seven**[TWO] percent to bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The lingcod bycatch allocation for the commercial salmon troll fishery in the Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector (SSEOC) is insufficient for the fisheries needs. Currently it stands at 2% of the overall lingcod quota for the (SSEOC) area, where in other areas of Southeast Alaska the troll bycatch allocation is 7-8%.

With such a small allocation, the retention of lingcod in the commercial salmon troll fishery in the SSEOC area often closes well before the end of the summer troll season. This forces the troll fleet to release lingcod caught after the bycatch allowance is met and miss opportunity to retain valuable fish.

Solution:

Transfer 5 of the 7 percent of the lingcod allocated to the commercial groundfish jig fishery, to the commercial salmon troll fishery in the SSEOC sector.

Reasoning:

The lingcod allocated to the commercial groundfish jig fishery in the Southern Southeast Outer Coast Sector (SSEOC) currently stands at 7% of the GHR (guideline harvest range). This has equated to 11,690 round pounds of lingcod per year since 2003.

From 2003 through 2019, a total of only 79 lbs. of lingcod has been landed in the commercial groundfish jig fishery in the SSEOC area.

Transferring 5 of the 7 percent from the commercial groundfish jig fishery to the commercial salmon troll fishery would be a far better use of the lingcod resource.

This would provide a sufficient bycatch allocation of lingcod to the commercial salmon troll fishery in the SSEOC area and still leave the commercial groundfish jig fishery with a lingcod allocation that would more than satisfy the historic needs of that fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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