

Proposal 18 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska acceptable biological catch (ABC), as follows.

The guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is 25% of the overall federal WGOA TAC, plus 25% of the allocated pot sector from the federal WGOA TAC.

ISSUE: There is an effort to nullify the sector splits by moving a large portion of additional TAC to the state- waters Pacific cod GHL. This would allocate a large amount of TAC away from the trawl fleet. The 2012 sector splits in the Western Gulf of Alaska re-established the division of TAC back to the traditional catch ratios. For many years, with the January 1st start date for fixed gear, the pot vessels have been able to increase their effort and share of the TAC. Trawlers were helpless as they could not start fishing till January 20. This action would allow trawlers to retain their historical participation. This action would allow the Pot vessels to have a 50% State - waters fishery and would avoid re-allocating fish from the trawlers.

What Will Happen If Nothing Is Done? If things are left status quo, then the local fishers will fish in the same manner as they did traditionally, as the sector splits reflect. Many pot fishers also fish with trawls. Most pot only boats, also fish crab, salmon or other fisheries. It won't have a big affect on community and economy.

Will the Quality of the Resource Harvested or Products Produced Be Improved?

Can't be sure.

Who is Likely to Benefit? Trawlers and hook and line vessels will retain their sector split allocations.

Who is Likely to Suffer? Pot boats that depend on a lot of their production in Federal waters. Some of that catch would be going to new entrants in open access and also to smaller boats that do not venture into Federal Waters.

Other Solutions Considered? None

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