

**PROPOSAL 370 – 5 AAC 28.070. Groundfish possession and landing requirements.** Modify the bycatch assessment requirements on vessels during groundfish fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 28.070. Groundfish possession and landing requirements.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section or any other provision of this chapter, during times when the commissioner determines it necessary for conservation of the resource, to avoid waste of a bycatch species, to prevent overharvest of a bycatch species, or to facilitate consistency of state and federal regulations for a species, the commissioner may close and reopen fishing seasons to provide for changes to groundfish bycatch levels, as provided in this subsection. The commissioner may, by emergency order, close a directed groundfish season and immediately reopen a season during which a CFEC permit holder may have on board **at the time of delivery** a bycatch level of another groundfish species, established by the commissioner and stated in the emergency order, of up to 20 percent, by weight, of the directed groundfish species on board the vessel **at the time of delivery**. Regarding a directed halibut fishery, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close and immediately reopen the fishing season for a bycatch groundfish species during which a CFEC halibut permit holder may have on board a bycatch level of that groundfish species, established by the commissioner and stated in the emergency order, of up to 20 percent, by weight, of the halibut on board the vessel **at the time of delivery**. If a CFEC permit holder has on board the permit holder's vessel fish taken in more than one directed fishery for which a bycatch level has been established under this subsection, each applicable bycatch level percentage is applied to the weight of the fish taken in the applicable directed fishery and the resulting amounts are added together to determine the total weight of the bycatch species that may be on board the vessel **at the time of delivery**.

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?**

Current statewide groundfish possession and landing requirements specify that a vessel may not have onboard a bycatch level of another groundfish species, exceeding a specified percentage of the directed groundfish species or halibut onboard the vessel. This proposal seeks to amend statewide groundfish possession and landing requirements (5 AAC 28.070(b)) so that the retainable bycatch level of a groundfish species is assessed at the time of landing. This will allow a fisherman to exceed the specified retainable groundfish bycatch level during a fishing trip provided the amount of retained groundfish bycatch species does not exceed the amount of directed groundfish or halibut onboard the vessel at the time of landing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Petersburg Vessel Owners Association.

*(formerly ACR 1)*

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