

Whittier Advisory Committee does not support proposal #29 (Black cod/Rockfish by-catch proposal) as written. The committee encourages the board of fish to use proposal # 29 as a point in reference to review and adjust rockfish regulations as they relate to deep water rockfish in the Prince William Sound.

Proposal #29, written by myself, Jon Van Hying, no longer suggests the board consider the proposal as written. It is recommended the board consider these changes to the PWS rockfish management plan instead.

1. Split black cod/rockfish by-catch from all other fisheries in PWS where rockfish by catch is a concern.
2. Increase the deep water rockfish by-catch of the black cod fishery from approximately 25,000 lbs to 50,000 lbs also increasing percentage of by-catch from 20% to 40% before remainder of proceeds are turned over to department.
3. Entertain a target deep water rockfish fishery below 150 fathoms for 100,000 lbs per year for 3 years while keeping black cod fisheries by-catch increased to reduce excessive populations, thus increasing biodiversity of the PWS ecosystems.

Submitted by Jon Van Hying

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