

PROPOSAL 7 – 5 AAC 28.532. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Chignik Area; and 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Change pot gear storage regulations for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.532. Groundfish pot storage requirements for Chignik Area.

(a) ...rectangular groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and with all doors secured fully open, and cone or pyramid groundfish pots with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors not secured closed may be stored in water not more than 25 fathoms deep.

5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(h) During a state-waters season,

...

(2) Pacific cod may be taken only with groundfish pots, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear, as follows:

...

(E) during the seven days following the opening of the state-waters season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod may store or transport groundfish pots in excess of the pot limit established in (A) of this paragraph if the pots are

(i) stored in waters not more than 25 fathoms deep as described in 5 AAC 28.532(a); or

(ii) being transported on board the vessel and are not marked with identification tags.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Chignik state-waters Pacific cod fishery has a 60-pot limit.

Two Chignik Area groundfish regulations guide shallow water pot storage. The Chignik Area pot storage regulation, 5 AAC 28.532, allows shallow-water storage of groundfish pots during the entire season. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery management plan does not allow shallow-water storage for pots in excess of the pot limit except for the first seven days of the season.

This proposal provides the board and fishery stakeholders opportunity to resolve storage provisions for pots in excess of the pot limit during the Chignik state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery. The current provisions are listed above.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-057)
