

## **PROPOSAL 7**

### **5 AAC 28.087. Management measures in parallel groundfish fisheries for protection of Steller sea lions; and 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Increase vessel size limit to 100 feet overall length for trawl gear vessels during parallel and state-waters Pacific cod seasons in the Adak Section of the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 28.087. Management measures in parallel groundfish fisheries for protection of Steller sea lions.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, during a parallel season for Pacific cod

(3) in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area, the state-waters between 175 W long. and 178 W long. shall be open to fishing with [TRAWL,] pot, mechanical jigging machine, and hand troll gear by vessel that are no more than 60 feet in overall length, **to fishing with trawl gear by vessels that are no more than 100 feet in overall length and capable of packing no more than 250,000 pounds,** and to fishing with longline gear by vessels that are no more than 58 feet in overall length ...

5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(d) During a state-waters season,

(3) a vessel used to harvest Pacific cod when

(A) only the Adak Section is open under (c)(1) of this section,

(ii) [NONPELAGIC TRAWL GEAR], mechanical jigging machines, or pot gear may not be more than 60 feet in overall length;

(iii) **nonpelagic trawl gear gear may not be more than 100 feet in overall length and may not be capable of packing no more than 250,000 pounds;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As a measure to protect safety of vessel and life, we propose that the Board consider allowing fishing with trawl gear by vessels of no more than 100 feet in length overall in the parallel groundfish fisheries between 175 W long. and 178 W long. In order to lessen any adverse impact on the 60-foot and under trawl vessels already allowed under 5 AAC 28.087, we would suggest a further limitation that the 100-foot or less vessels not be capable of packing more than 250,000 pounds per load. Vessels such as the MISS LEONA, which is 86.5-feet in overall length, cannot fish safely in the very rough weather outside of three miles. The MISS LEONA has never packed more than 218,000 pounds, and normally stops with a load of 150,000 to 180,000 pounds. On the other hand, a number of 60-foot vessels already in the parallel fishery can pack 250,000 pounds easily. If the regulation is not amended, greater than 60-foot vessels such as the MISS LEONA, but which have far less packing capacity than some 60-foot boats, will continue to be forced to fish outside in weather that is too rough to be safe. We considered proposing a limit of 90 feet instead of 100 feet, but consider that such a limitation could continue to cause serious risks to some vessels of up to 100 feet. Therefore, we are proposing a 100-foot limit. We also considered proposing a historic dependence qualification. The MISS LEONA is a legacy Pacific cod boat, with up to three generations of family on board. Our vessel qualified as one of the few greater than 60 feet LOA non-AF A trawl vessels to receive a federal Aleutian Island area endorsement under 50 CFR 679.4(k)(4)(ix), based on historic dependence. However, we also consider that a historic dependence limitation could

endanger other smaller-packing vessels, and therefore decided not to propose a historic dependence limitation. Therefore, we have proposed the amendment specified.

**PROPOSED BY:** Omar and Christopher Allinson

(HQ-F18-029)

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