

AMENDMENT TO PROPOSAL #9

The intent of this RC is to replace RC 25 in order to clarify the intent of Chignik cod fishermen regarding how to reduce Steller sea lion closures in the Chignik area.

Chignik cod fishermen recommend that the Board amend proposal #9 to include additional closed waters within three miles from Steller sea lion haul-outs within the Chignik Area State waters.

The amended proposal would amend 5 AAC 28.087(b) by making a single change:

The Sutwik Island Steller Sea lion haul-out described in Table 5 at 50 CFR 679 will be changed from twenty miles to three miles. The intent is to open additional State waters during the parallel season pacific cod pot and jig fishery only where the area from three miles to twenty miles from the Sutwik Island Steller sea lion haul-out overlaps with State waters.

The twenty mile closure area around the Sutwik Island twenty mile closure that does not overlap State waters will not be effected.

This would make Chignik more consistent with other areas of the State with regard to the amount of closure around haul-outs and with regard to the total amount of closed waters as a proportion of the State water fishery.

The economic value to the Chignik area cod fleet of the waters currently closed due to the large 20 mile closure around the Sutwik Island SSL haul-out has increased significantly since this closure was put in place. Many more fishermen express a need to be able to fish this area during the parallel season than just a handful of years ago.

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