

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Establish daily pot gear fishing periods for the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

The state Pacific cod season in Chignik, will be open for fishing from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily until the quota is reached.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As more large non-local pot Pacific cod vessels participate in the Chignik state water Pacific cod fishery, the smaller local fleet becomes disadvantaged because the smaller vessels have a tough time fishing bad weather during the night. The problem will be exacerbated if the board increases the Chignik state water quota because even more large non-local boats will be attracted to the Chignik fishery. As local Chignik vessels are disadvantaged this also translates into negative impacts on the fragile and fishing dependent local communities.

Justification: Daylight hours would make a more even playing field for everyone and slow the fishery down. This past season, for example, poor weather made it difficult for the local boats to participate in the fishery at night and a daylight only fishery would have helped to spread the benefits of the fishery more equitably over the entire fleet.

The fishery would also be easier to manage if it were slowed down. When the 2015 state-waters season closed on March 23 nearly 400,000 pounds of cod remained unharvested because of the legitimate difficulty management faced timing the season closure because of having to deal with predicting how the weather would impact fishing. At the speed of the current fishery even the truly unpredictable breakdown of one high producing vessel can cause a mistake in the timing of the closure.

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