

Suggestion for Proposal 6 — Triggers to Remove GHL Vessel Restrictions

The intent of Proposal 6 is to protect and sustain the intended under 60 nature of the statewater GHL in the Aleutian subdistrict.

Though we prefer the GHL to be restricted to under 60 vessels entirely, we recognize that the board may be interested in options to open the GHL to other vessel groups to prevent stranding fish in years of underharvest. That participation should be conditional on whether the under 60 fleet is operating at capacity. We believe that the under 60 fleet can fully harvest the GHL, which we saw in 2018. We have suggested a mechanism that removes length restrictions in the case that the smaller boats are not able to fully prosecute the fishery.

After listening to discussion and comments yesterday, the Under Sixty Cod Harvesters are adjusting our recommendation for trigger date and management tools, with the intent of simplifying the request. It is comparable to measures established in the Kodiak Area Pacific Cod management plan, and reflects historic late season fishing effort in the region.

Recommendation:

The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod management plan provides additional late season fishing opportunity when the GHL is not fully harvested. If a substantial portion of the total state-waters season GHL remains unharvested on or after September 1, vessel ~~and gear~~ ^{and gear} restrictions may be removed to facilitate full harvest of the GHL.

*****Submitted by the Under Sixty Cod Harvesters**