

Proposal 455 – Substitute Language

Amend 5 AAC 28.087 (Management plan for parallel groundfish fisheries) and other applicable regulations to the effect that the Commissioner's existing emergency order closing state waters to fishing for pollock, cod, and Atka mackerel surrounding various Stellar sea lion (SSL) rookeries and haulouts does not have to exactly "match federal fishery management measures for protecting Stellar sea lions."

More specifically, closures in state waters surrounding sea lion rookeries and haulouts in the following areas may be altered, and other regulations amended, as follows:

**In the Aleutian Islands: from 174 to 178 degrees W. longitude, state waters surrounding SSL haulouts would be opened to fishing for walleye pollock, however, state waters within ten miles of SSL rookeries would be closed to pollock fishing. Also, fishing for pollock within state waters of the Aleutian Islands from 174 to 178 degrees W. longitude would be opened only to vessels equal to or less than 58 feet in length.**

**In the western Gulf of Alaska (South Alaska Peninsula): state waters within 20 miles, but outside a 10-mile radius, of Jude Island would be opened to pollock fishing. Also, fishing for pollock within state waters of the western GOA would be limited to only vessels equal to or less than 58 feet in length. Also, catcher vessels in the western GOA would be limited to daily deliveries of pollock of no more than 300,000 pounds (136 mt) and tender vessels would be limited to receiving or retaining onboard no more than 600,000 pounds (272 mt) of unprocessed pollock harvested in the western GOA per day.**

**In the central Gulf of Alaska (North Gulf District of the Cook Inlet area): from 149 and 150 degrees W longitude, state waters beyond a three-mile radius of SSL haulouts would be opened to pollock fishing under provisions of a Commissioner's permit.**

The scenarios outlined above pertain to parallel fisheries for pollock in the Aleutian Islands, the western GOA, and the central GOA. Seasons, TACs, allocations, and other management actions, other than those specified above, would continue to parallel those imposed by the federal government. The federal government would actively manage harvests against federally-established TACs and allocations, would open and close seasons, would establish gear restrictions, etc. The state would not actively manage the harvests; rather, ADF&G would treat this fishery similar to other parallel fisheries through the global E.O.

*This proposal will be deferred to the agenda of the October 2005 meeting of the Board of Fisheries for further action. In addition, the board intends to refer this amended proposal to the Board/Council joint protocol committee for discussion and coordination with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.*