

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Allow pots in commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

Insert language in regulations to allow pots as well as long line fishing in black cod fishery. Fish that are caught in pots would be harvested without loss.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like to see regulation changes to allow not only longline but pot gear to be used in the Southeast black cod fishery. Also to allow longliners the ability to transfer non-utilized quota from longline to pots. Separate fishing areas or times to avoid gear conflicts.

Reason 1. Pot gear would cut down on fish loss due to whales, birds, sand fleas, and slime eels. As well would reduce bycatch mortality. Create an opportunity for utilization of total allowable catch. Like to erase the fisheries management gray area on fish mortality and fish landed.

Alternate pot gear would alleviate rush to get quota out of the water before conflict in other fisheries quota holders are involved in.

PROPOSED BY: John and Cindy Johanson (HQ-F14-054)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear for sablefish harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (SSEI) permit holders C61C permits to elect to harvest their equal quota share (EQS) using longline pot gear as a gear type and modify the sablefish fishing season to account for the alternative harvest methods while retaining separate harvest period for SSEI C91C permit holders.

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear will to the extent adopted eliminate degradation caused by sperm whale interaction.

In addition, pot gear harvest methods eliminate loss from visibility injured or dead immature sablefish better protecting the resource.

PROPOSED BY: John Johansen (HQ-F14-061)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

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Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear will to the extent adopted eliminate degradation caused by sperm whale interaction.

In addition, pot gear harvest methods eliminate loss from visibility injured or dead immature sablefish better protecting the resource.

PROPOSED BY: John Johansen (HQ-F14-061)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Add pot gear as a legal gear type for commercial sablefish permits currently limited to longline gear in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

For the southern Southeast Alaska sablefish fishery, permit holders have the option of using pot gear or hook and longline gear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently in the southern Southeast sablefish fishery there are two seasons, June 1 to August 15 longline only (21 permits) and September 1 to November 15 pot only (3 permits).

On June 1 typically more than half the longline permits begin fishing on finite productive fishing grounds causing gear conflict and rockfish bycatch along with a disproportionate amount of sablefish biomass removal in 3 to 5 days.

I believe that if the option to use pots instead of longline were allowed, the gear conflict would be less, rockfish and other bycatch would be greatly reduced, and predation by sand fleas and hagfish on sablefish might be eliminated.

This option has been allowed in the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery.

Allowing pots would also give the option to fish grounds infested with sand fleas and hagfish not being utilized by the longline fleet. Pots allow the fish to swim around escaping the sand flea and hagfish.

Pots allow for live delivery of product increasing revenue per pound.

PROPOSED BY: Bill Connor

(EF-C14-010)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Update and clarify the areas where sablefish may be taken with longline gear in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130(a) is amended to read:

(a) In the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, [THE SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE SUBDISTRICT, AND THE EAST YAKUTAT DISTRICT,] sablefish may be taken only with longlines. In the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, sablefish may be taken only with longlines and pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? State waters sablefish fisheries in Southeast Alaska exist only in waters of the Northern Southeast Inside (Chatham Strait) and Southern Southeast Inside (Clarence Strait) subdistricts. The East Yakutat District is no longer defined under Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area regulations; this area is now categorized as the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section. The EYKT section is located within the Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict. 5 AAC 28.170(h) prohibits the retention of sablefish in state waters of the SEO, except as provided for in 5 AAC 28.170(c). Elimination of the reference to EYKT and SEO in this regulation would help avoid potential confusion over the possibility of sablefish fishing opportunities in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F14-077)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery. Establish 50 fish harvest limit for personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.674(6) (A) the annual possession limit of sablefish is 50 per household. (B) the maximum number of permits that may be fished at any one time per vessel is 4 permits.

Above would be added to the following existing language: A personal use fishing permit issued by the department under 5 AAC 77.674 is required to take sablefish; the department will issue only one sablefish personal permit per household per year; a permit holder shall record personal use sablefish harvest information on harvest recording form provided by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no limit on personal use sablefish harvest and no restrictions on the amount of longline gear that can be used to harvest personal use sablefish. Sablefish stocks are at low levels in both state and federal

waters with no indication of strong incoming year classes. Unrestricted personal use harvest invites undue pressure on stocks and distortion/abuses of personal use needs.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (HQ-F14-031)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery. Establish an annual limit and gear restriction in the personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

Taking of sablefish under the required permit is limited to 50 fish per year. Hook and line gear is legal gear with a hook limit of 350 hooks per permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unlike for salmon, there is currently no fish or gear limit for sablefish taken under a Department personal use/subsistence permit although a permit is required. The amount of reported catch from these permits doubled between 2012 and 2013. The Board of fisheries generally sets personal use and subsistence fishery limits at an amount typical of household use. Setting a gear limit comparable to the catch limit will reduce by catch and discard mortality.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Curran (EF-C14-137)
