

DEVELOPMENT OF WALLEYE POLLOCK MANAGEMENT PLANS

The following walleye pollock management plan template is a starting point for development of area specific state-waters walleye pollock management plans.

5 AAC 28.XXX (Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula) Area state-waters walleye pollock management plan.

(a) The management plan in this section governs the harvest of walleye pollock in the (Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula) management area.

(b) During the (Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula) Area state-waters walleye pollock season the guideline harvest level is XX percent of the estimated total allowable harvest for the federal (610 Shumagin, 620 Chirikof, 630 Kodiak, 640 West Yakutat, or 650 Southeast Alaska) Area.

(c) A vessel registered to take walleye pollock in a state-waters season may not be longer than XX feet in overall length.

(d) Each year a state-waters walleye pollock season in the (Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula) Area shall open on January 20 for mechanical jigging machine, purse seine, and pelagic trawl gear: **NOTE: these are gear type options for consideration with a single gear type or combinations thereof to be selected for each area.**

(1) when a state-waters season is open for mechanical jigging machine, purse seine or pelagic trawl gear, the parallel walleye pollock season for the applicable gear type is closed.

(2) the state-waters walleye pollock season will close by emergency order for each gear type as follows:

A) when mechanical jigging machine has taken XX percent of the guideline harvest level; unharvested state-waters mechanical jigging machine walleye pollock remaining to be taken after (date) will (reallocation provision).

B) when purse seine has taken XX percent of the guideline harvest level; unharvested state-waters purse seine walleye pollock remaining to be taken after (date) will (reallocation provision).

C) when pelagic trawl has taken XX percent of the guideline harvest level. unharvested state-waters pelagic trawl walleye pollock remaining to be taken after (date) will (reallocation provision).

(e) A person may not deliver from a state-waters walleye pollock season more than XXX,XXX pounds of walleye pollock per landing; a walleye pollock landing may not occur within 48-hours

of a previous walleye pollock landing except when the season is closed with less than 48-hours advance notice.

(f) The commissioner may open and close, by emergency order, fishing seasons at times other than those specified in this management plan if the commissioner determines it necessary to

- (1) adapt to unanticipated openings and closures of the federal season;
- (2) maintain sustained yield management; or
- (3) provide for orderly fisheries.

(g) In addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 28.020 a vessel must be registered to fish with mechanical jigging machine, purse seine or pelagic trawl gear, and may not simultaneously be registered to fish with more than one gear type; a vessel's gear registration may be changed during a state-waters season to a different gear registration if the owner or owner's agent submits a written request for a change in registration by mail, facsimile, email, or in person to the department office in _____, or other locations specified by the department, for validation, and that registration has been validated by the department.

(h) If a state-waters season and federal season for walleye pollock are open concurrently for the same gear type:

(1) a vessel may not participate in a state-waters walleye pollock season and any other walleye pollock season at the same time;

(2) a vessel's registration for the state-waters season in the (Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula) Area must be invalidated before that vessel may participate in any other walleye pollock season;

(3) registration for a state-waters season may only occur in person or by facsimile from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on a working day at a department office designated by the department; and

(4) all groundfish on board a vessel must be landed before that vessel may have the vessel's registration invalidated or be registered for a state-waters season for walleye pollock in the (Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula) Area.

(i) If a state-waters season and federal season for walleye pollock are open concurrently for different gear types, a vessel may not participate in a state-waters season and any other walleye pollock season at the same time.

(j) When operating pelagic trawl gear in a state-waters walleye pollock season, the vessel shall have onboard an approved groundfish observer. **NOTE: similar to the state shellfish observer program, a state groundfish observer program would require separate regulations to implement and guide the observer program.**

(k) During a state-waters season, no more than XX percent of the guideline harvest level may be taken from any one section of the (Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula) Area that is open to fishing.

(l) The department will specify, prior to the fishery, bycatch limits in a state-waters walleye pollock fishery.

(m) A state-waters walleye pollock fishery shall close when the department estimates the total or individual species bycatch limits have been achieved.

(n) Catch reports must be submitted to the department as specified during registration.

(o) Logbooks will be provided by the department at the time of registration and must be filled out completely after each gear set. Signed copies of the logbooks must be received by the department, as specified in the logbook, within 10 days after landing.

The following decision points are not included in the generic plan at this time, as further direction is needed.

- Registration: exclusive, nonexclusive
- Steller sea lion issues (seasons, area closures)
- Coordination with federal fishery (prohibited species catch caps/parallel fishery seasons and catch accounting)
- Coordination with other state fisheries (e.g. salmon, herring, Pacific cod)
- Gear dimensions (e.g. depth and length of seine)
- Landing requirements
- Vessel monitoring system (VMS)
- Other bycatch species (herring, forage fish, Pacific cod, black rockfish)
- Rollover between gear types and late season mop-up
- Inseason reporting
- Sampling opportunities (notification of landing)