

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Increase minimum commercial lingcod size limit to 30 inches from tip of snout, or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin, to tip of tail, as follows:

All lingcod retained must measure at least 30 inches from tip of snout to tip of tail or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin of tip of tail.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase lingcod minimum length for retention in the commercial fishery from 27 inches to 30 inches
Lingcod is a highly valued fish in commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries and as such, should be protected.

1. This can be done without harm to the commercial fishery due to the fact that the allocation is based on pounds, not number of fish.
2. The harvest will not change but the number of fish left in the water for recruitment in future years will increase.
3. The result will be a higher quality product and reduced processing costs.
4. It will bring size limits in line with the lower slot limit for inside sport fisheries.
5. Lingcod are a hardy fish and can tolerate being released if under the legal size limit.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-012)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. Allow commercial salmon fishermen using troll gear in Sitka Sound to retain up to two lingcod per trip for personal use, as follows:

Allow trollers in the Sitka Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) to catch and retain up to two lingcod per trip for home-pack provided that they are marked in a manner that the department specifies so as to distinguish them from salable fish. (i.e. trim the lobes of the tail or remove the anal fin, etc.) The retention of these fish is to be recorded on a fish ticket upon landing.

5 AAC 28.150 New subsection: Not withstanding

(a) of this section, up to two lingcod per trip may be retained as bycatch in the salmon troll fishery in the waters described in (a) of this section. The department may mandate that these fish be retained for personal use and may not be sold and may further require that any such lingcod aboard a troller fishing in the waters defined in (a) of this section be marked by removing the fin(s) to ensure that they are not sold.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unlike halibut longliners, salmon trollers are not currently permitted to retain bycatch lingcod when fishing within the Sitka LAMP. While some restriction on commercial sale of bycatch lingcod in the LAMP may be appropriate, the current regulations do not even allow for retention of lingcod for personal use. The local lingcod population is healthy enough to support a small amount of additional

harvest. Trollers that catch a lingcod or two in waters outside of the LAMP have to offload their lingcod before they can fish within the LAMP. The Central Southeast Outside quota for troll bycatch lingcod is rarely, if ever, taken.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (EF-C14-102)

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use area lingcod regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(g)(1)(A) is repealed:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(1) in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, defined as that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.,

(A) **repealed** / / [THE NONRESIDENT BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LINGCOD IS A BAG LIMIT OF ONE FISH, AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lingcod regulations for the Sitka Sound Special Use Area have been superseded by more conservative regulations established by regional emergency orders. Emergency orders have been issued each year since 2001 to manage for the sport fishery allocation, and are expected to be issued annually for the foreseeable future. Specific lingcod regulations for the Sitka Sound Special Use Area are no longer necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-090)
