

PROPOSAL 1 – 5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Add purse seine gear as an additional gear type to share the 10 percent mechanical jigging machine and hand troll (jig) gear allocation in the Chignik Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.537 is amended to read:

Seine gear is approved under the Pacific Cod Management Plan (5AAC 28.537) subject to the following:

1. A valid CFEC interim-use permit card for statewide miscellaneous saltwater finfish using purse seine gear is required;
2. For the three years, 2016–2018, purse seine gear as defined under 5 AAC 15.332 may be used to harvest Pacific cod annually in Area L beginning on 1 May and ending on June 1 and limited to the harvest of not more than 75% of the Pacific cod Area L jig quota or whatever remains of the Area L 10% jig quota, whichever is lowest;
3. Fishing shall occur only in state-waters listed in 5 AAC 28.500 excluding Chignik Lagoon;
4. An approved ADF&G logbook is required and shall be submitted with each fish ticket at time of delivery.
5. A salmon dip net shall be onboard and used for the live release of all incidental caught salmon. No salmon shall be retained for any purpose.
6. The Department may deploy ADF&G personnel as an onboard observer while fishing. The vessel shall have a current USCC safety decal and an inspected life raft that can accommodate all persons onboard the vessel. Costs associated with accommodating an observer will be the responsibility of the vessel owner while the observer is onboard.
7. The vessel operator must have five years of commercial fishing experience in the Chignik Management Area (L) and an established market for any harvested Pacific cod.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The jig quota (10% of the annual GHL) assigned to the state-water Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) fishery for the Chignik Management Area (L) is underutilized. Requested is for the BOF to include a new gear type, purse seine gear (5 AAC 15.332) in the Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.537) and that the new gear be permitted to harvest a portion of the 10% jig quota limited to the May 1–June 1 period exclusively provided the jig quota has not already been reached.

There is evidence that Pacific cod can be successfully harvested in early spring (May 1–June 1) Area L waters with standard purse seine gear (5 AAC 15.332) before the local salmon season begins and that it can be accomplished absent of any discernable impact on other finfish resources, namely salmon. For evaluation purposes the BOF may wish to limit the use of purse seine gear (from May 1 through June 1 annually) to a three year period beginning in 2016. Also suggested is that the BOF consider authorizing seine gear as experimental for Pacific cod, not via a "commissioner's permit," but through direct action subject to specifically tailored conditions that would include making it optional for an onboard observer due to Chignik's remoteness, practicality, budget limitations, and scale.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-032)
