

PROPOSAL 213 – 5 AAC 28.070. Groundfish possession and landing requirements. Clarify possession and landing requirements for Pacific cod and walleye pollock, as follows:

5 AAC 28.070(e) is amended to read:

- (e) A CFEC permit holder operating a vessel fishing for [GROUND FISH SHALL RETAIN]
 - (1) **Pacific cod shall retain** all [POLLOCK AND] Pacific cod taken when a directed fishery for [POLLOCK OR] Pacific cod is open; [OR]
 - (2) **walleye pollock shall retain all walleye pollock taken when a directed fishery for walleye pollock is open; or**
 - (3) **groundfish shall retain** the maximum retainable bycatch of **walleye** pollock and Pacific cod taken when a directed fishery for **walleye** pollock or Pacific cod is closed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The existing groundfish possession and landings requirement regulation for walleye pollock and Pacific cod is not clearly written and has been interpreted to mean a vessel participating in the Pacific cod fishery can retain walleye pollock caught above the bycatch allowance, and similarly a vessel participating in the walleye pollock fishery can retain Pacific cod caught above the bycatch allowance.

Full retention of Pacific cod and walleye pollock only applies to the directed fishery a vessel participates in (i.e., a vessel must retain all Pacific cod when the vessel is directed fishing for Pacific cod, and the same for pollock). The intent was not to provide opportunity for a vessel to retain all walleye pollock when the walleye pollock season is closed, and the same for Pacific cod.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-058)
