

**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)

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**PROPOSAL 214 – 5 AAC 39.010. Retention of fish taken in a commercial fishery.** Specify that bycatch in excess of the allowable amount will be surrendered to the state and donated to charity and establish fines for bycatch in excess of the allowable amount, as follows:

All commercial bycatch over the amount allowed shall be surrendered to the state to be given to charity. The permit holder shall be fined, per pound, fair market value of each species of bycatch they exceeded.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to address the commercial bycatch problem because there is too much wastage.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Smith (EF-C15-007)

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**PROPOSAL 215 – 5 AAC 28.XXX. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pollock Management Plan and 5 AAC.XXX.** Establish a 58' overall length limit for vessels participating in South Alaska Peninsula parallel walleye pollock fishery using trawl as follows:

Modify the current State Waters Pacific Cod Management Plan to extend the current vessel size limit for pollock as well as Pacific cod to apply year round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition is composed of trawl vessels under 58' in overall length. These vessels participate in the federal Pollock and Pacific cod trawl fisheries both inside and outside state waters. Recent changes in federal regulations have capped salmon bycatch and reduced halibut bycatch caps. It is imperative that the vessels work together to insure that bycatch of both species is minimized.

Our vessels based in King Cove and Sand Point believe that restricting access to state waters by larger vessels will assist in keeping bycatch to a minimum. Our vessels have shown that we can work closely with each other to prevent the majority of bycatch.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition (EF-C15-063)

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**PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.**

Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting*):

5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area

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(b) The waters of Unalaska Bay are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear, [as follows:] **south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54° 00.50' N. lat., 166° 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54° 01' N. lat., 166° 40' W. long.**

[(1) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 31, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO CAPE CHEERFUL AT 54°, 01' N. LAT., 166°, 40' W. LONG.];]

[(2) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 UNTIL THE CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO A POINT NEAR HOG ISLAND AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 34.25' W. LONG. TO A POINT IN BROAD BAY AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 38.80' W. LONG.; FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON" MEANS THE PARALLEL SEASON CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2002 large-scale trawling in tiny Unalaska Bay has unacceptably impacted an area traditionally used by subsistence, sport, and smaller non-trawl commercial fishers and hunters. Trawlers have harvested approximately four million pounds annually of pollock from Unalaska Bay over the past ten plus years. The State of Alaska opens these waters to trawling from September 1 to November 1 as a parallel fishery to the eastern Bering Sea catcher vessel pollock fishery that is managed by NMFS. There is no cap on what amount of the B season pollock trawl quota can come out of Unalaska Bay and in 2004 nearly 12 million pounds was harvested. No research has been done to understand the local pollock biomass, its abundance or what a sustainable harvest level may be. The huge trawl nets used to prosecute this fishery are putting excessive pressure on a sensitive area already fully utilized by local fishers and hunters. Based on observations made by local residents it appears fish and game are being scattered and or driven from the bay coincidentally as this trawl fishery is happening. It has become nearly impossible for local fishermen and hunters to feed their families and small commercial vessels are increasingly required to leave the safety of Unalaska Bay in order to make a living. The subsistence salmon, halibut, herring and crab fisheries and sea mammal hunting has been very poor in recent years and the local tanner crab fishery has remained closed since 2010. Most of the trawling occurs when other user groups are using the bay during the summer and fall dislocating the smaller boats out of the safety of the bay into the Bering Sea, endangering lives, in order to find fish and game and avoid gear conflicts (loss). Habitat destruction will occur where trawl gear touches the bottom. This proposal will allow fish and game to recover and return to areas closer to our community enabling us to be able to continue harvest and process our local resources. We considered limiting all commercial fishing vessels under 35 feet lengths, but so few of them

bother fishing inside the bay and their impacts are not nearly that of the trawl vessels. Trawlers are large vessels that are built to handle the stormy weather of the Bering Sea. They did not historically fish in Unalaska Bay and restricting them from these waters would alleviate many problems.

**PROPOSED BY:** Unalaska Native Fisherman's Association (EF-C15-128)  
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**PROPOSAL 216 – 5 AAC 28.1XX. Southeast Alaska Area Walleye Pollock Management Plan.** Establish a state waters walleye pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska as follows.

Establish a pollock seine fishery from mid-October to March in southeast Alaska state waters for vessels up to 58' in length. Limit landings to 200,000 pounds. Observer coverage would be determined by results of commissioner's permit, but could be up to 100% using observer or combination of observer and video monitoring. Observer costs to be covered by harvest vessels.

Trawl gear to remain illegal.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** According to the 2014 NMFS report: *Assessment of Alaska walleye pollock in the Gulf of Alaska*, pollock are abundant in southeast Alaska state waters. Because trawling is band east of longitude 144 there is no state or federal directed fishery on pollock. This underutilized resource could and should be developed to benefit fishermen, communities, and the State of Alaska. Therefore, we request that the Board of Fisheries create a State of Alaska pollock seine fishery encompassing state waters of southeast Alaska from Dixon Entrance to Cape Spencer. Initially use National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) survey estimates of biomass to set guideline harvest levels or acceptable biological catch (ABC) at 20% of the stock biomass (point estimate for 2015 is 56,111 tons). The biomass of pollock in southeast Alaska is likely much higher considering the NMFS trawl surveys are based on catches at Dixon Entrance and outside waters and do not include sampling the 350 miles of inside waters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Troy Denkinger

(EF-C15-137)

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**PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 28.410 Fishing seasons for Kodiak Area.** Establish fishing season for walleye pollock that does not conflict with salmon season, as follows.

Change opening of Pollock season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the opening of the pollock season until the salmon season is over. Why: salmon can only be fished between June and October pollock can be fished year around and it would be easy to do this. All the canneries in Kodiak have stopped buying salmon as of August 31, 2015 and there are a large number of salmon still catchable.

**PROPOSED BY:** Hugh Wisner

(EF-C15-138)

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**PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 28.XXX State-Waters Walleye Pollock Management Plans.** Establish state-waters walleye pollock jig fishery management plans with guideline harvest levels deducted from total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula and Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands areas as follows.

Creation of state-water walleye pollock jig fishery: jig fishing for walleye pollock shall be allowed within state water boundaries of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula areas, and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island districts. State water jig harvests will be deducted from Federal TAC in corresponding Federal areas up to an amount deemed reasonable by the Board of Fisheries. Jig vessels will be limited to a five mechanical jig machines, with a maximum of 30 hooks per machine.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, jig fishers throughout the state are unable to harvest pollock when the Federal pollock seasons are closed. Jig fishers operating within state waters need a dedicated state water pollock fishery to satisfy niche and bait markets when Federal pollock seasons are closed. If no action is taken, jig fishers will continue to lose economic opportunity— and niche/bait markets will continue to lose potential of procuring fresh pollock from local jig fleets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Jig Association

(HQ-F15-109)

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