

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**Alaska Board of Fisheries**

**GULF OF ALASKA POLLOCK WORKGROUP**

**FINAL REPORT**



**July 2015**  
*(revised February 2016)*

## REPORT CONTENTS

REPORT CONTENTS .....	2
ACRONYMS .....	3
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES: <i>Gulf of Alaska Pollock Workgroup</i> .....	3
Workgroup Members: .....	3
BACKGROUND: <i>Gulf of Alaska Pollock Fishery</i> .....	4
NPFMC RESPONSE: <i>GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Program</i> .....	6
Workgroup Member Comments on the GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Program: ..	6
PROPOSAL 44 RESPONSE: <i>Central GOA Pollock Management Plan</i> .....	7
Workgroup Member Comments: .....	7
ADF&G COMMISSIONER’S PERMIT: <i>Pollock Seine Test Fisheries</i> .....	8
Workgroup Member Comments: .....	8
BOARD WORKGROUP RESPONSE: <i>Draft State GHL Pollock Management Plan</i> .....	9
Workgroup Member Comments: .....	10
STATE-WATERS POLLOCK FISHERY: <i>Costs/Benefits of a State GHL Pollock Fishery</i> .....	11
Workgroup Member comments: .....	11
Trawl fishery: .....	11
Seine fishery: .....	12
Jig fishery: .....	12
General Comments .....	13
NEXT STEP: <i>Board Call for Proposals for a state GHL Pollock Management Plan</i> .....	13
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <i>State-waters GOA Pollock Fishery</i> .....	13
DOCUMENTS re: State-waters GOA Pollock Fishery discussion .....	13
TIMELINE re: Board Proposal 44 .....	14
TIMELINE re: Board GOA Pollock Workgroup, February 2014 – Present .....	14
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (on Board website) re: <i>GOA Pollock Fishery Discussion</i> .....	14

## ACRONYMS

Gulf of Alaska	GOA
Central Gulf of Alaska	CGOA
Western Gulf of Alaska	WGOA
Acceptable Biological Catch	ABC
Total Allowable Catch	TAC

### **ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES: *Gulf of Alaska Pollock Workgroup***

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) is established by the Alaska Legislature to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the state. Along with establishing fishing seasons, bag limits, and methods and means for the state’s subsistence, commercial, sport, guided sport, and personal use fisheries, the Board also sets policy and direction for the management of the state’s fishery resources within state-waters.

In 2013, the Board received Proposal 44 seeking to establish a state-waters pollock fishery in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA). The pollock fishery is traditionally managed by the federal government through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). However, there is nothing that precludes the Board from establishing a state-waters fishery. At the time, and similarly today, the Council is considering major changes to the federal GOA pollock fishery.

In an effort to better understand the nuances to the pollock fishery, efforts ongoing in the federal fishery management system, and preferences of Alaska fishermen and communities, the Board tabled Proposal 44 and created the GOA Pollock Workgroup (Workgroup) to assist in better understanding the management environment. Through the efforts of the Workgroup, summarized in this report, the Board is prepared to accept a wider array of pollock state-waters proposals that will be reviewed by the Board in 2016.

This report covers several topics related to the GOA pollock fishery management. The report provides summaries of each subject followed by input received by the Board from the Workgroup.

#### **Workgroup Members:**

##### Board of Fisheries

- Sue Jeffrey (Chair)
- John Jensen (Co-Chair)

##### Industry and Community Members

- Julie Bonney, CGOA trawl voluntary cooperative manager
- Pat Branson, CGOA community representative
- Bill Fejes, Small processor
- Mike Flores, Charter owner/operator
- Omar John Gucer, Cook Inlet jig vessel owner/operator

- Matt Hegge, Proposal 44 author
- Darius Kasprzak, Kodiak jig vessel owner/operator
- Mitch Kilborn, Large fish processor
- Raymond May, Kodiak purse seine vessel owner/operator
- Beaver Nelson, Cook Inlet purse seine vessel owner/operator
- Patrick O'Donnell, LLP trawl vessel owner
- Chris Sannito, Small fish processor
- Curt Waters, LLP trawl vessel operator
- Ernie Weiss, WGOA community seat representative

North Pacific Fishery Management Council representatives

- Ed Dersham
- Duncan Fields

Workgroup Assets

- Forrest Bowers, Deputy Director, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries
- Nicole Kimball, Federal Fisheries Coordinator, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries
- Karla Bush, FMP Coordinator/Fishery Biologist, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries
- Wayne Donaldson, Fish and Game Coordinator, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Westward Region
- Mark Stichert, Fisheries Biologist, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Westward Region
- Trent Hartill, Fisheries Biologist, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Westward Region
- Tim Baker, Fish and Game Coordinator, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Central Region
- Jan Rumble, Fisheries Biologist, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Central Region
- Glenn Merrill, Assistant Administrator, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries
- Sam Cunningham, Economist, NPFMC
- Glenn Haight, Executive Director, ADF&G Boards Support

**BACKGROUND: *Gulf of Alaska Pollock Fishery***

Alaska pollock is a mild whitefish that enjoys universal appeal, the flakey-textured fish that is served as fast food fish sandwiches, fish sticks, imitation crab meat in sushi, and the like. Industry leaders claim that it is the largest food fishery in the world.

Over the past year, the Board heard commercial fishermen throughout the GOA – from the south end of Kodiak Island, Kachemak Bay, and Southeast Alaska — say their regions are experiencing a pollock population explosion.

In the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), trawl surveys indicate a dramatic increase in the pollock biomass. As a result, for the 2014 season the Council increased the total allowable catch (TAC) from the previous year by 46 percent for the 19 pollock trawl vessels fishing in the

Western GOA (WGOA) and 54 percent and 36 percent for the 40 trawl vessels fishing in Areas 620 and 630 of the Central GOA, respectively. The actual harvest amount, or the acceptable biological catch (ABC) set by the Council for the GOA for those same years increased from 243 million pounds in 2013 to 358 million pounds in 2014.

Currently, pollock is harvested 0–3 miles in state waters during the GOA state parallel fishery. In some years, nearly 50 percent of the TAC has been caught in state waters. The average from 2003–2014 is about 23 percent.

The state manages a state-waters guideline harvest level (GHL) pollock fishery in Prince William Sound (PWS). Established in 1995, it is an open access pelagic trawl pollock fishery. There is no vessel limit length and no mandatory observer coverage. Bycatch caps are set for individual species, i.e. rockfish, which are caught incidentally by jig, longline, and trawl. The PWS pollock GHL is based on 2.5% of the federal pollock ABC.

The outlook for the GOA pollock resource is good for the next several years. According to a 2014 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Plan Team report, the estimated abundance of mature fish is projected to remain stable or to increase over the next five years; and the biomass estimate for the Shelikof Strait in the GOA is larger than any other biomass estimate in the Shelikof since 1985.

There is a downside, however, to the growing pollock population in the GOA. Simultaneous to the pollock increase is a decrease in the GOA and Bering Sea Chinook salmon stocks, a species commonly caught as bycatch during the trawl pollock fishery. The cause of the Chinook salmon population decline is hotly debated throughout the fishing industry. Nevertheless, the Council in 2012 responded to the decline by setting a bycatch cap of 25,000 Chinook salmon for the pollock trawl fleet in the GOA and began discussion of other comprehensive management measures collectively called the GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Program to address Chinook salmon bycatch in the GOA trawl fisheries. If the fleet catches more than the 25,000 Chinook, federal groundfish managers must shut down the season no matter how many tons of pollock remain on the ground to harvest. The challenge facing the GOA pollock fleet is to catch less Chinook while harvesting more pollock.

Thus far, the CGOA pollock fleet has met the challenge by forming volunteer “harvesting cooperatives,” which has resulted in the fleet catching the pollock TAC without going over the 25,000 Chinook cap. Under the “harvesting cooperative” structure, the annual TAC is divided prior to each season among the participating fishing vessels by assigning them equal numbers of fishing trips they may make. As a result, vessel operators know prior to the start of the season the amount of fish they will be allowed to harvest. This gives them the opportunity to take the time to strategically harvest the target species and avoid fishing the Chinook “hot spots.” That is, the harvesting cooperatives in place in the CGOA end the “race for fish,” allowing the full TAC to be harvested while avoiding catching Chinook salmon, the prohibited species.

**NPFMC RESPONSE: *GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Program***

The goal of the Council’s trawl bycatch management program being considered is to reduce the incidental taking of Chinook salmon and halibut in the federal CGOA groundfish fisheries. To achieve this bycatch reduction, program developers believe the key is to eliminate the “race for fish” whereby fishermen catch as much as they can as fast as they can before the TAC is caught and the fishery closes.

Bycatch management program developers believe that a sure way to eliminate the “race for fish” is to award each of the fishing vessel owners a fixed percentage of the CGOA pollock fishery. That is, the Council would give each of the roughly 40 vessels that have fished in the CGOA pollock fishery a permanent share of the fishery based on the vessel’s historic catch in the fishery.

As in other federal rationalized fisheries, historical catch is converted to a percentage of the total TAC for each vessel, also referred to as “catch shares.” According to catch share program developers, vessels endowed with catch shares would have less incentive to “race for fish” because each pollock vessel owner knows before the beginning of the fishing season the exact tonnage amount their vessel may harvest.

Developers further argue the benefit of a bycatch management plan that issues catch shares is there would be less Chinook bycatch because pollock trawl vessels can fish slower and thereby avoid catching Chinook salmon.

For the past few years, the Council spent considerable resources analyzing various elements of a trawl management plan such as harvesting cooperatives (see BACKGROUND above) and also catch shares to further reduce bycatch in the CGOA trawl pollock fishery. The Council plans to review an updated GOA Trawl Bycatch Management paper at its October 2015 meeting.

**Workgroup Member Comments on the GOA Trawl Bycatch Management Program:**

- Ernie Weiss - WGOA residents want to protect communities but there are differences in opinion between fishermen, communities, and others on how to do this. One of the goals [of the WGOA community members] is limiting consolidation.
- Ernie Weiss - The Aleutians East Borough will conduct a survey to look at socioeconomic factors. Many experienced fishermen think that bycatch avoidance is best accomplished by people with the most fishing experience.
- Ernie Weiss - Consolidation of the fishery that results in less jobs and only a small number of boats harvesting GOA Pollock in a closed fishery is not good for coastal communities.

**PROPOSAL 44 RESPONSE: *Central GOA Pollock Management Plan***

Commercial fisherman and Workgroup member Matt Hegge, the author of Proposal 44 submitted to the Board in 2013, said the purpose of establishing a state-managed pollock fishery in the CGOA is to maintain open access to harvesting pollock as the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Council move towards a catch share program.

According to Hegge, federal management programs that award catch shares or quota shares to individuals result in over-consolidation of the fishing fleet with less catch share boats and individuals participating in the fisheries. Additionally, the cost to buy into catch share fisheries increases dramatically and becomes out of reach for small boat fishermen, according to the proposer.

Hegge said he supports the goals and objectives of bycatch management programs. The intent of Proposal 44, he said, is to provide continued access to state waters if a federal catch share program is implemented.

To mitigate the problems associated with such management programs, Hegge envisions an open-access pollock fishery in state-waters for pelagic trawl, seine, and jig gear. To address Chinook salmon bycatch concerns, the state fishery would require 100 percent observer coverage on trawl vessels and slow down the fishery by instituting 150,000-pound trip limit deliveries with no less than 48-hours between deliveries.

**Workgroup Member Comments:**

- Matt Hegge, author of Proposal 44, said he submitted RC 52 at the 2014 Kodiak finfish meeting that removes the 58' vessel length limit because the Kodiak fleet is mostly over 58' in length.
- Wayne Donaldson - Program costs for other state observer programs (crab and scallop) are paid for through federal funds and/or test fishing (cost-recovery). Observer coverage costs are paid either entirely by the vessel (100% coverage), through test-fishing, and/or federal funds.
- Karla Bush - Workgroup members discussed how harvest is accounted for within state-waters. The proportion of harvest that comes from state-waters is calculated using fish tickets (eLandings). Harvest location, reported by state statistical area, is self-reported by the vessel operator at the time of landing. There is no standard approach for reporting where catch occurs. Some operators report the statistical area where they hauled back (brought in their net). Therefore, the proportion of catch from state/federal waters is likely not an exact accounting of where the fish were harvested since vessels often tow across multiple statistical areas while fishing. This is not a management concern because all harvest accrues to the TAC.
- Mark Stichert - The state does not have a groundfish observer program, which may be necessary to monitor a trawl pollock GHF fishery. It would be expensive, but the department needs more direction on size, scope, scale, and purpose of an observer program before estimates of costs can be calculated.

- Pat Branson described the Kodiak Fisheries Workgroup, saying it is a public process with diverse representation. The City of Kodiak passed a resolution to protect community interests and the economic engine of the community (fisheries). The letter describes high-level goals to maintain healthy, sustainable resources in the GOA and healthy, competitive economies.
- Ernie Weiss - There is less consensus within the WGOA region; there was some reluctance at first to be included in the Council's trawl bycatch management action, but Aleutians East Borough petitioned to get involved in 2013.
- Ernie Weiss - WGOA communities are single processor towns, with mostly local fleets of vessels less than 60' in overall length.

### **ADF&G COMMISSIONER'S PERMIT: *Pollock Seine Test Fisheries***

Through the Board's evaluation of Proposal 44 and the efforts of the Workgroup, there was considerable interest voiced in establishing test fisheries for purse seining and jig fishing of pollock. Seining is a popular and successful form of harvesting species like salmon and herring, but untested for Alaska pollock. At the Board's requests, ADF&G established several pollock seine and jig test fisheries.

ADF&G groundfish management biologist Mark Stickert said ADF&G staff issued commissioner's permits for seine test fisheries in Kodiak and Lower Cook Inlet. An onboard department observer was required. Commissioner permits were also issued for jig fishing in Kodiak.

**In Kodiak**, the test fishery was set for April and September in 2014, and one commissioner's permit was issued. One purse seine vessel made a single trip in May 2015 and did not harvest any pollock. Forty-six vessels were issued pollock jig permits in 2014, concurrently with the state-waters Pacific cod jig fishery. The total catch was 33,000 pounds, an average landing of 245 pounds per vessel. This compares with approximately 10,000 pounds of pollock harvested on average by jig vessels from 2004-2013, and 15,000 pounds harvested on average in the past five years.

**In Lower Cook Inlet**, a test fishery took place with the required Fish and Game observers. Two vessels participated and harvested about 32,000 pounds of pollock and 45 Chinook salmon in three trips. Chinook salmon ranged in size from 2–3 pounds. They were dipnetted from the seine and released live. There were two confirmed Chinook mortalities. No genetic samples were taken. Herring seine nets were used, but participants thought deeper nets would have caught more pollock. Boats fished during the day and night; daytime fishing seemed better. The pollock caught were too small for a fillet market and only 20% were suited for the bait market they had lined up.

### **Workgroup Member Comments:**

- Raymond May – The lack of participation in the test fishery was due to timing of other fisheries going on; salmon extended well into September 2014, he said. Also, a customized herring seine would be necessary for this fishery and



it is concerning for participants to make that investment if there is no assurance that there will be a fishery.

- Raymond May - He would be out fishing for the Board's statewide meeting in March 2016 (when pollock proposals will be reviewed) and thought there may not be any seiners at the meeting. But he wanted to let the Board know that he wants a state fishery. Though he's looking at gear for himself to fish, he said it is hard to get 20 seiners to invest. He and other seiners are frustrated, he said. The original intent of the test fishery was to prove pollock can be caught with a seine. He said that has been proven in Lower Cook Inlet. He and fellow seiners said this fishery already exists. He said it takes time to develop a fishery and he and other seiners can't go on speculation of a fishery. It's a large investment. They want to have the opportunity.
- Beaver Nelson - About 20% of the pollock caught in the Lower Cook Inlet seine test fishery was suited for the bait market.
- Jan Rumble - The Chinook caught were in the 2–3 pound range, the same size as pollock. They were dipnetted out of the seine and released alive. No genetic samples were taken.
- Julie Bonney - Genetic sampling results from Chinook salmon caught as bycatch in the CGOA fisheries show that about 96% is from British Columbia, West Coast U.S., and Coastal Southeast Alaska.
- Julie Bonney - Fish hatcheries are a large source of Chinook salmon production in these regions but the proportion of the bycatch that originates from hatcheries cannot be estimated from genetic samples (parental genotyping is an emerging technology) and are instead estimated from coded wire tagging data.
- Julie Bonney - The CGOA pollock fishery cap for Chinook salmon is 18,300 fish and to stay within this hard cap, vessels cannot catch more than 20 Chinook salmon per 300,000 pounds of pollock. The extrapolated Chinook salmon bycatch from the Commissioner's permit in the Lower Cook Inlet test fishery is about 420 Chinook per 300,000 pounds of pollock.<sup>1</sup>
- Jan Rumble - Except for two small fish, the Chinook salmon caught with seine gear in the test fishery was released live.

### **BOARD WORKGROUP RESPONSE: *Draft State GHL Pollock Management Plan***

ADF&G Division of Commercial Fish Deputy Director Forrest Bowers explained that staff developed a management plan template at the request of the Workgroup co-chairs. It has a similar structure to the state's Pacific cod plans with separate management plans for each area. It is not envisioned that a state GHL pollock fishery management plan would

---

<sup>1</sup> Report note: this point does not consider the ability of fisheries management to set the Chinook salmon bycatch cap for seine harvest based on an estimated mortality.

be a single statewide plan. There would be individual plans and elements specific to each area, i.e., vessel length, gear, season, GHL, observer coverage, trip lengths.

**Workgroup Member Comments:**

- Julie Bonney - Kodiak trawlers are opposed to a state-waters GHL pollock fishery because they need the ability to go in and out of state waters during a tow to follow fish and avoid bycatch.
- Patty O'Donnell - The existing parallel fishery is a state fishery; the state can modify the rules of a parallel fishery as desired.
- Ernie Weiss - WGOA trawlers agree that a 58' length limit is appropriate and it would be consistent with vessel length limits now in the Pacific cod parallel trawl fishery.
- Patty O'Donnell - His vessel is 86' in length and he fishes in state waters for pollock in the WGOA so he does not support a 58' length limit for the WGOA.
- Ernie Weiss - Currently there is no seine gear interest in WGOA pollock, but some fishermen do not want to be precluded from that opportunity.
- Julie Bonney/Patty O'Donnell Concurrent seasons for state-waters GHL and federal pollock trawl fisheries would be problematic as it would likely be the same vessels fishing. There was concern about stranding fish, i.e. allowable harvest that goes uncaught when the approved harvester classification cannot fully prosecute the fishery.
- Matt Hegge - Trip limits less than the current 300,000 pound limit would make fishing less economical. Trip limits may be needed to manage fishery to a certain pace of catch, could be useful if the GHL is small to make the fishery manageable, and should only be set if needed for management purposes.
- Mark Stichert - Checking in/out of the fishery (if state and federal seasons are open is important for management and enforcement).
- Wayne Donaldson - The department has concerns about fishery bycatch and would like to have more observer information for the PWS fishery, but is constrained financially. A new fishery could not be supported with existing staff.
- Ernie Weiss - Full observer coverage would not be economically viable for some vessels although it may be necessary if individual accountability is the goal.
- Wayne Donaldson - Program costs for other state observer programs (crab and scallop) are paid for through federal funds and/or test fishing (cost-recovery). Observer coverage costs are paid either entirely by the vessel (100% coverage), through test-fishing, and/or federal funds.
- Duncan Fields - Need to consider spatial depletion within state waters and distribute the fishing effort.
- Karla Bush - Bycatch caps in a state-waters GHL fishery would be additive to the federal cap. The Council could look to reduce their bycatch cap if the state set a Chinook salmon cap for a state-waters GHL pollock fishery, but there's no guarantee that the federal bycatch limit would change.

- Jan Rumble - Setting bycatch caps in a state-waters GHL fishery is already being done in PWS.
- Ernie Weiss - Exclusive registration would be supported in the WGOA.
- Mark Stichert - Steller sea lion no fishing zones are almost all recognized during the state parallel Pacific cod fishery. Only the no transit zones are recognized during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery.
- Duncan Fields - The Eastern population of Steller sea lion is no longer endangered and it may be appropriate to start a dialogue with NMFS Protected Resources Division to see if some of those measures should be rolled back.
- Ed Dersham - State-waters measures are considered in the Biological Opinion for Steller sea lion measures under other cumulative effects. Measures in state-waters may have to be mitigated by changes to the federal fisheries.
- Raymond May / Julie Bonney - Gear restrictions: Several points were made about not defining specific gear because it does not allow for innovation. It is better to look for incentives to reduce bycatch (through gear modifications) rather than dictate gear specifications.
- Mark Stichert - Pacific cod are taken as incidental species during pollock trawling. The Board would need to consider these Pacific cod removals in the state Pacific cod management plans.

### **STATE-WATERS POLLOCK FISHERY: *Costs/Benefits of a State GHL Pollock Fishery***

Throughout the workgroup's efforts, several discussion points were brought up regarding establishing a state-waters pollock fishery for the various gear types under consideration.

#### **Workgroup Member comments:**

##### **Trawl fishery:**

- Julie Bonney - Difficult to know what the correct GHL would be and difficult to set district bycatch caps.
- Julie Bonney - Fractures the fishery – forces fishing inside three miles versus the zero to 200 miles that trawlers have now.
- Julie Bonney - Conflicts with the current parallel fishery that allows for new entrants.
- Julie Bonney - A GHL fishery would be repetitive and increase costs.
- Julie Bonney - Fish may be stranded if you cannot roll back to federal fisheries or if they happen too late in the year.
- Matt Hegge - Rollover provisions can address the issue of stranded fish.
- Patty O'Donnell - Opposes elimination of a parallel fishery to have a state-waters GHL; needs to fish inside when the weather is bad.
- Matt Hegge - A parallel fishery won't be eliminated.
- Patty O'Donnell - Exclusive state-waters fishery around Kodiak would impact those that currently fish and increase inefficiencies.
- Matt Hegge - Kodiak will not necessarily be an exclusive state-waters fishery.

- John Gucer - Efficiency does not equate to more money. More money would go to the local communities if the pollock fishery duration was longer.
- Matt Hegge - Catch share programs like halibut and Bering Sea king crab dramatically increase the cost of participating in the fisheries.
- Julie Bonney - Pollock is a high volume, low value fishery. Need to be efficient enough to cover the cost structure of the platform and crew costs. It is more expensive to operate a trawler.
- Duncan Fields - If federal waters are not rationalized, then why should the Board move forward?
- Julie Bonney - A trawl GHL fishery may allocate pollock to a group that does not exist; there are no GOA trawlers who only fish state-waters.
- Julie Bonney - There are no GOA trawlers who fish only state-waters yet.
- Julie Bonney - Impacts to other state fisheries need to be considered. There are a larger number of efficient 58' vessels fishing now; if you create another opportunity for 58' vessels, you may erode what happens in other fisheries such as Pacific cod.

**Seine fishery:**

- Beaver Nelson - Support concepts in Proposal 44.
- Darius Kasperzak - Would like seine opportunity when salmon fishing is poor.
- Tim Baker - Need more time to continue with commissioner permits to see if something can be developed before moving forward with a management plan.
- Raymond May - Participants in Cook Inlet have proven that pollock can be caught with a seine, which was the purpose of the commissioner's permit.
- Mark Stichert - Seine fishery would look different in Kodiak than in Cook Inlet. We do not have information on catch or markets for other areas yet.
- Mark Stichert - We need to understand how the fishery might work. Need to come forward with enough structure so a management plan can be built.
- Beaver Nelson - The seine gear that was tested in Cook Inlet is likely not what would be used in a developed fishery.

**Jig fishery:**

- Darius Kasperzak - The jig fleet is trying to recover from 2013 when the available Pacific cod biomass and price were low. Last year some boats started getting back into the cod fishery and numbers of vessels in the fleet is picking up. Effort in the Pacific cod fishery was low in 2014; the best opportunity for pollock was in June and vessels were targeting black rockfish during that time.
- Julie Bonney - Jig gear is currently an allowable gear type for pollock in the federal and state parallel fisheries. The federal pollock fishery opens annually for fixed gear on January 1, this year it will likely be open until April. The fixed gear season opens again on August 25 and is usually open until November 1.

- Darius Kasperzak - The jig fleet would do better if it could fish during the summer months.
- Julie Bonney - The Council could create a pollock jig opportunity that could be fished from zero to 200 miles.
- Darius Kasperzak - The jig fleet is interested in having a pollock fishery opportunity when the federal season is closed (summer months). The fish are shallower, easier to catch during this time, and larger fish are found inside bays. In general, the jig fleet is more comfortable with state-managed fisheries since most participate in state-waters Pacific cod and black rockfish fisheries.
- Mitch Kilborn - The current dock price in Kodiak for Pacific cod is \$0.35 for bled fish and pollock is \$0.11 per pound.
- Darius Kasperzak - Jig fishermen have said they receive the same price for Pollock as cod when they make their cod deliveries.
- Darius Kasperzak - Supports seeing a jig fishery develop. Benefits to the state may be more permits in the hands of Alaskans.

#### **General Comments**

- Raymond May - State should manage fishery if fish occur in state waters. Locals will fish if there is an opportunity

#### **NEXT STEP: *Board Call for Proposals for a state GHL Pollock Management Plan***

##### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

***5:00 p.m., September 4, 2015 for the Board statewide finfish meeting, March 8–12, 2016***

---

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: *State-waters GOA Pollock Fishery***

##### **DOCUMENTS re: State-waters GOA Pollock Fishery discussion**

- [2009–2013 GOA Pollock and Pacific Cod Harvest](#)
- [Board Proposal 44](#)
- [ADF&G Staff Comments on Proposal 44](#)
- [Board State-waters Pollock Management Plan Template](#)

**TIMELINE re: Board Proposal 44**

**Spring 2013:** The Board received commercial fisherman Matt Hegge’s Proposal 44 *to create state-waters walleye Pollock management plans for Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Chignik management areas.*

**Fall/Winter 2013:** The Board took public testimony on Proposal 44 at the Chignik Finfish and Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meetings. It was at this meeting that Julie Bonney and others familiar with the Council trawl bycatch management program said that the Council and the Board needed to work together so the pollock fisheries in state waters could dovetail with the federal catch share fishery.

**January 2014:** At the Kodiak Finfish meeting, the Board took public testimony and voted to table Proposal 44 until the March 2015 statewide Board shellfish meeting. The Board established the GOA Pollock Workgroup to gather information about a state GHL pollock fishery.

**TIMELINE re: Board GOA Pollock Workgroup, February 2014 – Present**

- Set goal *to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries with discussion on a state guideline harvest level (GHL) walleye pollock fishery and an explanation of whether and how a state-GHL walleye pollock fishery would protect and maintain Alaska’s marine resources and maximize benefits of the state’s Gulf of Alaska walleye pollock resource*
- Established five objectives (see handout)
- Named 13 stakeholders from Western and Central GOA to fill designated seats; included at the workgroup table two Council representatives; support staff from ADF&G, NMFS, and Council; and two Board members who served as workgroup co-chairs.
- Held three Pollock Workgroup meetings in Anchorage: April 2014, October 2014, and February 2015.
- Discussed federal pollock fishery challenges at April 2014 (see minutes on the Board webpage and discussion points below)
- Discussed federal/state management plan coordination at October 2014 meeting (see minutes on the Board’s webpage and discussion points below)
- Discussed the Board’s state-waters Pollock Management Plan Template at the February 2015 meeting (see minutes on Board webpage and discussion points below)
- Announced at the February 2015 meeting that the Board will issue a call for proposals for state waters pollock-related proposals to be taken up at the Board’s March 2016 Statewide finfish meeting.

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (on Board website) re: GOA Pollock Fishery Discussion**

**2013 Chignik Finfish meeting:**

[Proposal 44](#)

[Staff Comments on Proposal 44](#)  
[Index of Public and F&G Advisory Committee Comments](#)  
[RC 010 – Oppose Proposal 44/Whitefish Trawlers Assn.](#)

**2013 Lower Cook Inlet Finfish meeting**

[Proposal 44](#)  
[Staff Comments on Proposal 44](#)  
[Index of Public and F&G Advisory Committee Comments](#)  
[RC 34 – Support Proposal 44/Mike Shoupe-owner, Polar Seafoods-Seward](#)

**2014 Kodiak Finfish Meeting**

[Proposal 44](#)  
[Staff Comments on Proposal 44](#)  
[Index of Public and F&G Advisory Committee Comments](#)  
[RC 018 – Oppose Proposal 44/Matthew Graham-trawl fisherman](#)  
[RC 030 – Oppose Proposal 44/Ron Naughton-trawl vessel skipper](#)  
[RC 032 – Oppose Proposal 44/Julie Bonney-AK Groundfish Databank](#)  
[RC 050 – Support Proposal 44/Sam Mutch-Cost-Revenue Comparison](#)  
[RC 052 – Support Proposal 44/Matt Hegge-Substitute Language for Proposal 44](#)  
[RC 057 – Oppose Proposal 44/Charlie Freeburg-trawl vessel owner](#)  
[RC 085 – ADF&G/Pollock Seine Commissioner’s Permit](#)  
[RC 090 – Support Proposal 44/Raymond May-Kodiak seiner-Kodiak State Pollock Seine](#)  
[RC 092 – Support Proposal 92/Matt Hegge-Information for Proposal 44](#)  
[RC 096 – Board Miscellaneous Agenda/Working group for Pollock fishery consideration](#)