

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 28.365. Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan. Add a 6-hour prior notice of landing requirement for the Cook Inlet commercial rockfish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.365 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(h) At least six hours before landing rockfish, an operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery must notify the department by telephone, to a telephone number specified in writing by the department on the registration forms at the time of registration, the following information:

- (1) vessel name and ADF&G number;**
- (2) date and location of landing, and estimated time of arrival;**
- (3) name of fish buyer or processor; and**
- (4) estimated number of pounds of rockfish on board the vessel.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is no prior notice of landing (PNOL) regulatory requirement for vessels participating in the Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery. Biological sampling of rockfish harvested during the fishery is coordinated out of Homer and deliveries generally occur in both Homer and Seward. For Seward landings, staff must travel by state vehicle from Homer to Seward in order to meet vessels, which takes approximately 4 hours for the drive alone. Offloading happens quickly and the opportunity to sample landings in both ports can easily be missed if there is no notification beforehand. Therefore, having a PNOL in place for this fishery would assist in achieving sampling goals. Additionally, a PNOL requirement allows Alaska Wildlife Troopers to be notified about upcoming deliveries, providing a coordinated enforcement opportunity. A similar regulation already exists for the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery as defined under 5 AAC 28.272(e), and there is a similar proposal to require PNOL for the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery. Landings for both sablefish fisheries frequently occur in Seward and are covered by the same Homer staff as Cook Inlet directed rockfish fishery landings. Having a PNOL for all three fisheries could result in higher productivity and efficiency for the Central Region sampling program because it may allow for more deliveries to be covered during a single sampling trip.

In 2015, a PNOL requirement was implemented as a condition of registration as provided by 5 AAC 28.020. *Groundfish area registration (c)* and a check-out procedure to report landing information was specified on the registration form. Vessels complied reasonably well; however, several waivers of the PNOL requirement were requested. If the PNOL requirement were defined in regulation, there would be less confusion by vessel operators regarding expectations of fishery participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-129)
