

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 28.330. Lawful gear for Cook Inlet Area. Amend lawful gear to allow groundfish pots to be connected when commercial fishing for sablefish in the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

A groundfish pot may not be attached to a line connected to another groundfish pot **except that in the Cook Inlet sablefish fishery groundfish pots may be connected if each end of the buoy line is marked as specified by (d) of this section.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fishing sablefish with pots in the Cook Inlet Area. This proposal follows existing state water sablefish regulations in other areas.

PROPOSED BY: Randy Arsenault (HQ-F16-057)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 28.350. Closed waters in Cook Inlet Area. Reduce closed waters for commercial groundfish in Kachemak Bay, as follows:

My solution would replace subsection 2 with the following.(2) waters of Kachemak Bay enclosed by the lines from the point east of Gull Island at 59 34.68N 151 19.27W to the southern most point of Gull Island at 59 35 .05N 151 19.9W south to a point at 59 33.4N 151 28.5W then south to 59 30.45N 151 40.0W then north to 59 33.0N 151 40.0W then northeast to 59 34.7N 151 30.0W then north along that latitude to the point that intersects with the mainland.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Closed waters Kachemak Bay.This proposal would reduce closed water area to allow smaller boats to fish during winter months when the prevailing north wind make the outer bay hazardous.It will open up more area around the perimeters of known crab abundance without putting undo pressure on Tanner crab stocks

PROPOSED BY: AlRay Carroll (EF-F16-065)

PROPOSAL 44 – 5 AAC 28.360. Cook Inlet Sablefish Management Plan. Add a 6-hour prior notice of landing requirement for the Cook Inlet commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.360 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) At least six hours before landing sablefish, an operator of a vessel participating in the Cook Inlet sablefish 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;**
- (4) estimated number of pounds of sablefish on board the vessel;**
- (5) whether the catch is dressed fish or whole (in the round) fish.**

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 sablefish fishery. Biological sampling of the sablefish and rockfish bycatch harvested during the fishery is coordinated out of Homer and nearly all deliveries occur in Seward. Staff must travel by state vehicle from Homer to Seward in order to meet landings, which takes approximately 4 hours for the drive alone. Offloading happens quickly and the opportunity to sample landings 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, particularly since there has been a decline in effort and harvest in the sablefish fishery in recent years, which has resulted in a protracted season with fewer deliveries during a given time period. Additionally, a PNOL requirement allows Alaska Wildlife Troopers to be notified about upcoming deliveries, providing a coordinated enforcement opportunity. A similar regulation exists for the Prince William Sound (PWS) sablefish fishery as defined under 5 AAC 28.272(e), and landings during the PWS fishery frequently occur in Seward or Whittier and are covered by the same Homer staff as Cook Inlet sablefish landings. Having a PNOL for both fisheries could potentially 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. There is overlap of participants between the Cook Inlet and PWS sablefish fisheries and vessels are able to comply with the PNOL requirements for the PWS sablefish fishery. Therefore, it would be expected that vessels would also be able to comply with the same requirement for the Cook Inlet fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-127)

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)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 28.365. Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan. Increase the trip limit for rockfish in the *Cook Inlet Rockfish Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 28.365

(b) A vessel fishing in the North Gulf District may not land or have on board more than [4000] **6000** pounds (round weight) of all rockfish species within 5 consecutive days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the directed rockfish fishery has a 4000lb 5day trip limit for the North Gulf District. This is primarily a small boat jig fishery, and due to concerns of over harvest a trip limit is warranted. However the current trip limit is very restrictive and in practical terms makes the financial viability of the fishery borderline and as a consequence it is currently very under utilized. I would like the board to consider a slight increase in trip limit to encourage participation.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person (EF-F16-077)
