

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow pots as a legal gear type in the Southeastern Alaska Area personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

(2). The new regulation should read something like the following:

"Personal use bottomfish may be taken only by longline, or hand held line , except sablefish may be taken with pots"

Give ADF&G the authority to determine a reasonable number of pots allowed per house-hold permit and per vessel in the sablefish personal use fishery.

The new regulations should exempt pots for sablefish from unlawful gear types in the personal use fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The personal use sablefish fishery takes less than 2% of the region wide catch each year. Since the Department has undergone pot surveys it has shown that by-catch in pots compared to longline is virtually nil. The use of long line is indiscriminate to what it catches and impossible to target sablefish only.

Longline gear will also catch multiple species that do not fall under the personal use fishery permit such as halibut and long lived sleeper sharks.

There is a greater potential for lost longline gear in the areas and depths at which sablefish are targeted than by using pot gear. Lost longline gear is a hazard for other sport and commercial fisherman and kills off more of the resource indiscriminately.

The use of pots will greatly reduce by-catch, reduce lost gear, and conserve resource. Pots are already legal gear in subsistence only areas.

The regulation [5 AAC 77.674(2)] prohibiting this gear type in personal use areas is broad based language covering all bottom fish species in the personal use fisheries and does not specifically address sablefish and the unique challenges associated with harvesting this specie.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Woodrow

(EF-F17-038)
