

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase guideline harvest level to 20 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea, as follows:

The Area O under 60 pot cod fishery would be increased to 20% of the Bering sea TAC
The state has been behind in every season except 2014. In 2015 we were closed early. In 2016 we were closed early. We've lost tens of millions of pounds of cod that could have been harvested by pots, thus significantly reducing bycatch in the Bering sea both of Bering sea salmon and halibut but also in salmon and halibut originating as far away as Washington and Oregon. Even saving a few southeast alaska Kings seems to be putting an enormous financial burden on other commercial fishermen and sports and charter users as well. Long gone are the days we can ignore the rampant impacts of drawling and factory longlining in the Bering sea and impacts across the entire state of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Any underutilized quota would be transferred to the over 60 pot fleet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The pot cod quota for area O needs to be raised to 20% of the total Bering sea TAC. The current state waters season was closed March 1. In 2014, we fished the inaugural stare waters season until May 1 and it remained open long after that. While I and my crew and fishing partners have been grateful for the privilege of harvesting pacific cod in a way that creates a de minimus bycatch. This has been the single most economic expansion for Alaskan small boat fishermen since limited entry or the advent of IFQs. Every pound of cod we catch will produce benefits far beyond that single pound. For it negates the bycatch impact that another pound of cod caught with any other gear type.

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