

**PROPOSAL 4**

**5 AAC 28.647 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Decrease Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level if the guideline harvest level is not fully harvested the previous year, as follows:

(d) during a state-waters season

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict is 27 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea; if the guideline harvest level established under this paragraph is achieved in a calendar year, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 31 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to 35 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subareas beginning the next calendar year; if the guideline harvest level is achieved in a calendar year thereafter, the guideline harvest level will be increased to a maximum of 39 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; a guideline harvest level established under this paragraph may not exceed 15 million pounds; **if the guideline harvest level established under this paragraph is not achieved in a calendar year (<85% harvested), the guideline harvest level will be reduced 4 percentage points from the previous year’s guideline harvest level percentage of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Aleutian Islands Subarea beginning the next calendar year; a guideline harvest level established under the paragraph may not be less than 11% of the federal ABC.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** At present, the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHL is set at 27% of the federal Aleutian Islands Pacific cod acceptable biological catch (ABC or total allowable harvest) and if the GHL is achieved it increases 4 percentage points per year each year it is achieved to a maximum of either 39% of the federal ABC or 15 million lbs. The amount of the GHL is deducted from the Pacific cod federal quota such that Pacific cod ABC – Pacific cod GHL = maximum Pacific cod total allowable catch in the federal fisheries.

Under current Alaska Administrative Code, the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict GHL remains static (27%, 31%, 35%, 39% or 15 million lbs) if the GHL is not achieved and there is no mechanism to roll unused GHL to the federal fisheries or to decrease the GHL if it is not being utilized. In past years, this has stranded unused GHL that could have been harvested in the federal fisheries and this negatively impacts harvesters in the federal CDQ and non-CDQ Pacific cod fisheries as well as the State of Alaska and communities through reduced tax revenue. Allowing for a mechanism to decrease the GHL in the event it isn’t utilized allows for the full harvest in the federal fisheries while preserving an opportunity for state-water participants until they achieve the GHL. The intent of this change is that the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific cod GHL either remains static or changes in +/- 4 percentage point increments from the preceding year’s GHL depending on whether the GHL is achieved or not.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (EF-F18-097)

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