

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Open a Kodiak Area commercial pot gear Pacific cod fishery on May 8 for half of the remaining jig gear allocation, as follows:

If on May 1, the commissioner determines that the jig gear GHL allocation will not be taken by June 10, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the state-waters season for vessels using pot gear at 12:00 noon May 8 and make 50% of the remaining jig gear GHL allocation available for harvest by vessels using pot gear. This action will be based on the department's inseason assessment of effort, harvest rate, and remaining Pacific cod GHL.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Jig Association (AJA) supports small vessel harvesters and we appreciate the importance of Pacific cod utilized by multiple gear types in the Kodiak Area. Owing to the cyclical nature of inshore Pacific cod biomass fluctuations, the jig fleet does not always fully harvest their GHL allocation. We stand adamantly against a permanent reallocation from the jig sector, as this gear type represents entry level and small scale harvesting opportunities; however we are not opposed to sharing our allocation with the pot fleet during seasons of low jig harvest. This proposal seeks to provide additional economic benefit to the state-waters Pacific cod fleet and Kodiak Area communities at large.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association

(HQ-F19-087)
