

Groundfish and Herring (11 proposals)

*Sablefish (1 proposal)*

**PROPOSAL 49**

**5 AAC 28.410. Fishing seasons for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.4XX. New Section.**

Create a Kodiak Area commercial sablefish season, as follows:

Open the season September 1 till December 31 or until the quota is caught. Adopt the same regulations as cook inlet state waters. Take 1% of the federal Central Gulf IFQ TAC to the Kodiak state water sablefish fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Open a new fishery in Kodiak state waters for sablefish similar to what cook inlet state water has for sablefish. There is decent amount of sablefish in Kodiak state waters during fall it would be good opportunity for new entry fisherman to participate in that don't own any IFQ sablefish quota.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dia Kuzmin

(EF-F19-066)

\*\*\*\*\*

*Pacific cod (6 proposals)*

*\*This proposal will be heard at the LCI and Kodiak meetings, and deliberated at the Kodiak meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 39**

**5 AAC 28.005. Registration areas established.**

Exempt vessels using jig gear from exclusive and superexclusive groundfish registration restrictions, as follows:

Simply exempt vessels using jig gear from the exclusive and super exclusive registration requirements.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove the exclusive and super exclusive designations for all state waters cod registration areas for vessels using jig gear. This would alleviate some of stranded GHF and permit vessels to take cod in different areas as conditions warrant.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gregory Gabriel

(EF-F19-082)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 50**

**5 AAC 28.430. Lawful gear for Kodiak Area; and 5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Allow six lines per mechanical jigging machine and six machines per vessel to be operated in the Kodiak Area Pacific cod fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.430. Lawful Gear for Kodiak Area.

(f) In the Kodiak Area, a mechanical jigging machine used to take groundfish may not have more than

- (1) six [FIVE] lines; and
- (2) 30 hooks per line.

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific cod management plan. (h)(2)(B)

(B) no more than six [FIVE] mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for Pacific cod;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I have been involved in the Pacific cod jig fishery since the year 2000. I operate out of Kodiak mostly, but have taken my vessel twice to the Bering Sea as well to jig cod. My proposal is to help increase production by increasing the number of jig machines allowed from five machines to six. This would allow myself and two crewmembers to work two machines apiece. With five machines one of my crew is stuck operating only one. This throws off the efficiency of soak time, which slows down the rhythm of my operation. When the conditions are right, I would be able to pull more jigs per day that would have the same amount of soak time. Having this extra machine will increase production. In recent years, large amounts of jig quota have been left on the table. My goal with this proposal is to increase the harvest of the quota in the jig sector.

**PROPOSED BY:** Christian Trosvig

(HQ-F19-074)

\*\*\*\*\*

### PROPOSAL 51

#### **5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Amend Kodiak Area Pacific cod state-waters guideline harvest level allocation to 40 percent jig gear and 60 percent pot gear, and amend the allocation annually based on harvest levels the previous year, as follows:

Adjust the current 50/50 allocation between jig gear and pot gear in the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery to 60% allocated to pot gear and 40% allocated to jig gear. In addition, the annual jig gear allocation will step up or step down by 5% based on jig gear fishery performance during the previous year. The jig gear allocation may not exceed 50% or be reduced below 20% regardless of fishery performance.

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(c) Each year the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a state-waters season in the Kodiak Area for mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and for pot gear. [AS FOLLOWS;] **For purposes of this section, when a state-waters season for Pacific cod is opened to mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear or pot gear, the parallel season for the applicable gear type is closed. Beginning with the 2021 state-waters season,**

- (1) **mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear is allocated 40 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level and pot gear is allocated 60 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level;** [WHEN A STATE-WATERS SEASON FOR PACIFIC COD IS OPENED FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR, THE PARALLEL SEASON FOR THE

APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE IS CLOSED; THE FISHING SEASON FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR WILL CLOSE WHEN THE APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE TAKES 50 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL KODIAK AREA GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL;]

**(A) if the jig gear allocation established under this paragraph is not achieved in a calendar year, the jig gear allocation will decrease by 5 percent and the pot gear allocation will increase by 5 percent beginning the next calendar year, but the jig gear allocation may not be reduced below 20 percent of the Kodiak Area guideline harvest level;**

**(B) if the jig gear allocation established under this paragraph is achieved in a calendar year, the jig gear allocation will increase by 5 percent and the pot gear allocation will decrease by 5 percent beginning the next calendar year, but the jig gear allocation may not exceed 50 percent of the Kodiak Area guideline harvest level;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear GHl allocation is not fully harvested in most years. Fully harvesting the GHl would benefit the community of Kodiak and the industry as a whole.

**PROPOSED BY:** Frank Miles

(HQ-F19-058)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 52**

**5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Increase the guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area to 17.5 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod in the Central Gulf of Alaska Area and increase the pot gear allocation of the GHL to 65 percent, as follows:

Increase the percentage of Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Pacific cod ABC taken by the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery from 12.5% to 17.5% and allocate that additional ABC to the pot gear fishery.

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(c) Each year the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, a state-waters season in the Kodiak Area for mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear and for pot gear. [AS FOLLOWS;] **For purposes of this section, when a state-waters season for Pacific cod is opened to mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear or pot gear, the parallel season for the applicable gear type is closed. During the state-waters season,**

**(1) mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear is allocated 35 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level and pot gear is allocated 65 percent of the annual Kodiak Area guideline harvest level;** [WHEN A STATE-WATERS SEASON FOR PACIFIC COD IS OPENED FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR, THE PARALLEL SEASON FOR THE APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE IS CLOSED; THE FISHING SEASON FOR MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINE AND HAND TROLL GEAR OR POT GEAR

WILL CLOSE WHEN THE APPLICABLE GEAR TYPE TAKES 50 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL KODIAK AREA GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL;]

...

- (h) During a state-waters season,
  - (1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Kodiak Area is **17.5** [12.5] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Central Gulf of Alaska Area;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fleet has a consistent track record of harvesting the full pot gear GHL allocation and additional harvest opportunity would benefit the largely local fleet and the community of Kodiak.

**PROPOSED BY:** Frank Miles (HQ-F19-059)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 53**

**5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Add unharvested Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear quota to the pot gear allocation the following calendar year, as follows:

Any unharvested Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear quota shall be added to the Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear GHL allocation the following calendar year. This would not change the GHL allocations between gear types, but it would allow pot boats to catch any unharvested jig gear quota during the following years' state-waters pot gear fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kodiak Area state-waters Pacific cod jig gear GHL allocation is not fully harvested in most years. Fully harvesting the GHL would benefit the community of Kodiak and the industry as a whole.

**PROPOSED BY:** DJ Vinberg (HQ-F19-081)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**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 GHJ 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)

\*\*\*\*\*

*Herring (4 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 55**

**5 AAC 27.510. Fishing Seasons and periods for the Kodiak Area.**

Open the Kodiak Area sac roe herring fishery April 1, as follows:

I would like to see the opening date of the Kodiak Herring Sac Roe fishery be changed, by regulation, from April 15th, until April 1st.

5 AAC 27.510. Fishing Seasons and Periods for Kodiak Area. (a) Unless otherwise provided for by emergency order, herring may be taken during the sac roe season from **April 1** [APRIL 15] through June 30, as follows:

(1) from **April 1** [APRIL 15] through May 7, fishing periods for purse seines are from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available: from May 8 through June 30, fishing periods for purse seines are from 12:00 noon until 10:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on even numbered days if a harvestable surplus is available;

(2) from **April 1** [APRIL 15] through June 30, the fishing periods for gillnets are from 12:00 noon on odd-numbered days until 12:00 noon on even-numbered days;

(3) repealed 4/9/2005

(4) after April 30, a CFEC permit holder must register with the department before participating in the sac roe herring fishery.

(b) Herring may be taken during the food and bait season from September 1 through February 28 only during fishing periods established by emergency order. A CFEC permit holder must register with the department before participating in the food and bait fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, the Kodiak Area Sac Roe herring fishery cannot open, by regulation, until April 15th.

Over the past decade or so, Sac Roe Herring fisheries around Alaska have been occurring earlier and earlier in the spring. These fisheries historically take place when the fish come in from deeper water to spawn. The other active sac roe fisheries, in Sitka, AK and Kodiak, AK are opened on an EO (Emergency Order) basis, so they can open at any time that herring are observed, then tested; before they spawn. These fisheries have been opening earlier in the spring than normal, and spawns have taken place, much earlier than in the past. This may be due to Climate change, or other factors,



(a) The purpose of the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan under this section is to promote and maintain the viability of the herring stock in the Kamishak Bay District and stabilize the commercial fishery targeting the herring stock by using conservative management strategies that support a biologically sound and sustainable commercial fishery. This management plan describes the management strategies used to set and implement the guideline harvest levels for the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery.

(b) The management year for Kamishak Bay herring stock is July 1 through June 30.

(c) The guideline harvest level for the following spring Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery will be based on the projected biomass as determined by the most recent aerial surveys, age class composition, historical mortality, recruitment trends, and other relevant data that is collected by the department.

(d) The maximum allowable exploitation rate for the Kamishak Bay herring stock is 15 percent of the spawning biomass. The department will determine the exploitation rate based on the age class structure of the forecasted biomass, the degree of biomass uncertainty as measured by the adequacy of the recent years' aerial survey conditions and coverage, and the following guidelines:

(1) if the projected spawning biomass is 24,000 short tons or more, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 15 percent:

(2) if the projected spawning biomass is at least 14,000 short tons, but less than 24,000 short tons, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 12.5 percent;

(3) if the projected spawning biomass is at least 6,000 short tons, but less than 14,000 short tons, the department will establish a guideline harvest level of herring based on an exploitation rate between zero and 10 percent;

(4) if the projected spawning biomass is less than the minimum threshold of 6,000 short tons, the Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery will be closed.

(e) The management strategy for Kamishak Bay sac roe fishery is to target older age classes of herring, and to limit the exploitation rate of recruit age herring, which are fish age five and younger, to 10 percent or less. In order to provide maximum protection to recruit age herring, a further reduction on the exploitation rate set out in (d) of this section, or a complete closure of the affected fisheries may be implemented in the biomass projection, or in season test fishing, indicates a higher percentage of fish are recruit age herring.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kodiak Area Food and Bait Fishery's North Shelikof section cannot presently open because it is regulated by the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan. The Kamishak Management Plan presently closes the North Shelikof section when the spawning biomass in Kamishak is below 6,000 tons. The Kamishak section has not been surveyed in several years, and the surveyed biomass of herring in the North Shelikof section has been much larger than 6,000 tons. The Kodiak Food and Bait fishery should be managed on its own recent stock assessment. This would allow this, sustainable fishery, to provide food and bait herring throughout the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sam Mutch

(EF-F19-024)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 56**

**5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.**

Establish guideline harvest levels for the Kodiak Area food and bait herring fishery, as follows:

The Kodiak Area food and bait fishery should have its regulatory language updated.

**Draft Language: 5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.**(a) The department shall establish guideline harvest levels for the herring food and bait fisheries for each section which may not exceed 10 percent of the guideline harvest level of that section in the previous sac roe season. (b) The department shall manage the remaining districts of the food and bait herring fishery, so that the harvest does not exceed the combined sum of the guideline harvest levels of the individual sections of a district. The department may manage the food and bait fishery by section of a district, if the harvest location, age class composition of the harvest, or biomass estimates indicate a harvest has occurred on a single herring spawning stock.(c) Sections of a district that are designated exploratory for the sac-roe fishery may be designated exploratory for the food and bait fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Kodiak Area Food and Bait Fishery's North Shelikof section cannot presently open because it is regulated by the Kamishak Bay District herring management plan. The Kamishak Management Plan presently closes the North Shelikof section when the spawning biomass in Kamishak is below 6,000 tons. The Kamishak section has not been surveyed in several years, and the surveyed biomass of herring in the North Shelikof section has been much larger than 6,000 tons. The Kodiak Food and Bait fishery should be managed on its own recent stock assessment. This would allow this, sustainable fishery, to provide food and bait herring throughout the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sam Mutch

(EF-F19-023)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 57**

**5 AAC 27.535. Harvest strategies for Kodiak Area.**

Eliminate allocation and fishing area splits by seine and gillnet gear in the Kodiak herring food and bait fishery, as follows:

Fishing sections designated by the department will be open to both gear types on alternating days (to avoid gear conflict) for the entirety of the season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Provide more herring fishing opportunity for both seine and gill net fishermen by removing the allocative split and segregated fishing areas.

Currently allocation quotas are designated by assigning the different gear types specific areas and sections to fish within. This management strategy was adopted by the department in the past when there were a large number of seiners and gill netters involved in the fishery, in order to eliminate gear conflicts. In recent history the participation in this fishery has been very low and on some years no participation at all by certain gear types. If we eliminate this rule and revert to the previous management strategy, both gear types would have equal opportunity to fish all open areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Hilty

(EF-F19-074)

\*\*\*\*\*