

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 28.467. Kodiak Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Amend state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level rollover criteria for pot and jig gear as follows:

The Alaska Jig Association recommends striking the language from the Fishery Management Plan for the Kodiak Area State Managed Pacific Cod fishery GHL rollover provisions and replacing it with the following draft regulatory language in **bold**:

5 AAC 28.467(f)(1) is amended to read:

(f) If during a state-wares season

(1)less than 10.2 percent of [THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT] the mechanical jigging machine and hand troll gear guideline harvest level allocation has been [WILL NOT BE] taken through March 25 [BY JUNE 10], the commissioner shall reopen a state-waters season at 12:00 noon on April 1 and allow 50 percent of the remaining jig gear allocation, as of March 25, to be harvested by vessels using pot or jig [ALL LEGAL] gear. The state-waters season for vessels using pot gear reopened under this section will close when 50 percent of the remaining jig gear allocation, as of March 25, has been taken by vessels using pot gear or August 28, whichever occurs first;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The proposed language change to the Fishery Management Plan for the Kodiak Area State Managed Pacific Cod fishery seeks to provide the following improvements:

- Increased clarification in the rollover provisions from jig to pot gear to benefit all stakeholders participating in the fishery and Kodiak area managers regulating the fishery;
- Improvements to planning fishing activity based on harvest data;
- Improvements to management decisions regarding rollover provisions with fishing data to inform the decision;
- 10.2% represents the 10-year average (2013 -2022) harvested by the jig sector by March 25th;
- This number provides an accurate proxy for managers to estimate the complete harvest of the jig allocation by jig vessels by June 10.
- Small jig boat effort has always increased after the pot fishing fleet has harvested its allocation.
- The jig fleet is seeking a workable solution which continues to provide this critical entry level opportunity;
- The jig sector GHL provides affordable entry-level opportunity for new and young fishermen as well as those seeking more diversified access.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association

(HQ-F23-040)
