

**PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 28.1XX. Spiny dogfish pot fishery in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 28.174. Spiny dogfish (Squalus acanthias) possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Create a commercial fishery for spiny dogfish in Southeast Alaska using pot gear, as follows:

Create a new spiny dogfish pot fishery in Southeast Alaska with regulations as described to be determined by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

1. Spiny dogfish are currently an underutilized fishery.
2. In processing spiny dogfish, nearly all of the carcass is utilized, (including organs) except the head. When markets are developed, this fishery could provide new revenue streams and opportunities for fishers, processors, and communities.
3. Spiny dogfish tend to travel in large dense packs by size and sex. Longline spiny dogfish fisheries in British Columbia's Strait of Georgia have resulted in concerns over the inability to fish selectively, resulting in unwanted harvest of fecund females. A pot fishery could resolve those issues by the fact that the fish are harvested live and could be released unharmed, coupled with regulations on:
  - a. Season duration
  - b. Pot limits
  - c. Escapement rings
  - e. Legal size retention (slot limits)

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-015)  
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**PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Allow pots in commercial sablefish fishery, as follows:

Insert language in regulations to allow pots as well as long line fishing in black cod fishery. Fish that are caught in pots would be harvested without loss.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Would like to see regulation changes to allow not only longline but pot gear to be used in the Southeast black cod fishery. Also to allow longliners the ability to transfer non-utilized quota from longline to pots. Separate fishing areas or times to avoid gear conflicts.

Reason 1. Pot gear would cut down on fish loss due to whales, birds, sand fleas, and slime eels. As well would reduce bycatch mortality. Create an opportunity for utilization of total allowable catch. Like to erase the fisheries management gray area on fish mortality and fish landed.

Alternate pot gear would alleviate rush to get quota out of the water before conflict in other fisheries quota holders are involved in.

**PROPOSED BY:** John and Cindy Johanson (HQ-F14-054)  
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**PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear for sablefish harvest.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict (SSEI) permit holders C61C permits to elect to harvest their equal quota share (EQS) using longline pot gear as a gear type and modify the sablefish fishing season to account for the alternative harvest methods while retaining separate harvest period for SSEI C91C permit holders.

Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear will to the extent adopted eliminate degradation caused by sperm whale interaction.

In addition, pot gear harvest methods eliminate loss from visibility injured or dead immature sablefish better protecting the resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Johansen (HQ-F14-061)  
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**PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Add pot gear as a legal gear type for permits currently limited to longline gear for commercial sablefish harvest in Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

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Allowing current C61C permit holders to use pot gear will to the extent adopted eliminate degradation caused by sperm whale interaction.

In addition, pot gear harvest methods eliminate loss from visibility injured or dead immature sablefish better protecting the resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Johansen (HQ-F14-061)  
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**PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Add pot gear as a legal gear type for commercial sablefish permits currently limited to longline gear in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict fishery, as follows:

For the southern Southeast Alaska sablefish fishery, permit holders have the option of using pot gear or hook and longline gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently in the southern Southeast sablefish fishery there are two seasons, June 1 to August 15 longline only (21 permits) and September 1 to November 15 pot only (3 permits).

On June 1 typically more than half the longline permits begin fishing on finite productive fishing grounds causing gear conflict and rockfish bycatch along with a disproportionate amount of sablefish biomass removal in 3 to 5 days.

I believe that if the option to use pots instead of longline were allowed, the gear conflict would be less, rockfish and other bycatch would be greatly reduced, and predation by sand fleas and hagfish on sablefish might be eliminated.

This option has been allowed in the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery.

Allowing pots would also give the option to fish grounds infested with sand fleas and hagfish not being utilized by the longline fleet. Pots allow the fish to swim around escaping the sand flea and hagfish.

Pots allow for live delivery of product increasing revenue per pound.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bill Connor (EF-C14-010)  
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**PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Update and clarify the areas where sablefish may be taken with longline gear in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130(a) is amended to read:

(a) In the Northern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, [THE SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE SUBDISTRICT, AND THE EAST YAKUTAT DISTRICT,] sablefish may be taken only with longlines. In the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict, sablefish may be taken only with longlines and pots.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** State waters sablefish fisheries in Southeast Alaska exist only in waters of the Northern Southeast Inside (Chatham Strait) and Southern Southeast Inside (Clarence Strait) subdistricts. The East Yakutat District is no longer defined under Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area regulations; this area is now categorized as the East Yakutat (EYKT) Section. The EYKT section is located within the Southeast Outside (SEO) Subdistrict. 5 AAC 28.170(h) prohibits the retention of sablefish in state waters of the SEO, except as provided for in 5 AAC 28.170(c). Elimination of the reference to EYKT and SEO in this regulation would help avoid potential confusion over the possibility of sablefish fishing opportunities in these areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-077)  
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**PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.** Establish 50 fish harvest limit for personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

**5 AAC 77.674(6) (A) the annual possession limit of sablefish is 50 per household.**  
**(B) the maximum number of permits that may be fished at any one time per vessel is 4 permits.**

Above would be added to the following existing language: A personal use fishing permit issued by the department under 5 AAC 77.674 is required to take sablefish; the department will issue only one sablefish personal permit per household per year; a permit holder shall record personal use sablefish harvest information on harvest recording form provided by the department.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is currently no limit on personal use sablefish harvest and no restrictions on the amount of longline gear that can be used to harvest personal use sablefish. Sablefish stocks are at low levels in both state and federal waters with no indication of strong incoming year classes. Unrestricted personal use harvest invites undue pressure on stocks and distortion/abuses of personal use needs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (HQ-F14-031)  
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**PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery.** Establish an annual limit and gear restriction in the personal use sablefish fishery, as follows:

Taking of sablefish under the required permit is limited to 50 fish per year. Hook and line gear is legal gear with a hook limit of 350 hooks per permit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unlike for salmon, there is currently no fish or gear limit for sablefish taken under a Department personal use/subsistence permit although a permit is required. The amount of reported catch from these permits doubled between 2012 and 2013. The Board of fisheries generally sets personal use and subsistence fishery limits at an amount typical of household use. Setting a gear limit comparable to the catch limit will reduce by catch and discard mortality.

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Curran (EF-C14-137)  
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**PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 28.175. Logbooks for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Require groundfish fishermen using dinglebar, mechanical jig, or hand troll gear to report the specific location of fishing operation by latitude and longitude in logbooks and clarify the reporting of amount of hooks fished to be consistent with that information requested in the logbook, as follows:

5 AAC 28.175(b)(2) is amended to read:

(2) for dinglebar **troll gear**, mechanical **jigging machines** [JIG], or hand troll gear must include the date, the specific location of harvest by **latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes**, [SIX DIGIT STATISTICAL AREA] and nearest headland, the number of lines and **total number of** hooks [PER LINES] used, the average depth fished, the hours fished [FOR EACH LINE], and the number of bycatch fish taken, by species, **for each unique geographic location fished**; for the target species the following is required:

- (A) the number retained;
- (B) the number discarded; and
- (C) for lingcod only, their estimated sex ratio;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current logbook reporting requirements, consisting of six-digit statistical area and the nearest headland, do not always provide staff with enough detailed information to accurately assign groundfish harvest to the proper area. Logbooks are often submitted without statistical area information or adequate headland

descriptions for staff to make an accurate area assignment. A requirement to report latitude and longitude of fishing locations will not only provide for more accurate fish ticket data, it will also furnish staff with detailed information on where these fisheries are prosecuted.

Over the years, the department has utilized the latitude and longitude information reported in longline logbooks for a variety of research activities. Current jig fishery logbook location data can only be summarized to the statistical area level. The proposed amendment would allow department staff to have access to more detailed harvest information which would assist in future management of these fisheries.

The current regulatory language requires that number of lines and number of hooks used per line are reported in the logbook. In jig fisheries that allow the use of multiple lines, reporting is inconsistent and it is often difficult for staff to determine whether fishermen are reporting the number of hooks per line or the total number of hooks used. In order to avoid this confusion, the lingcod logbook form has been updated to request the total number of hooks used. The proposed regulation amendment will provide consistency with the current fishery logbook.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-075)  
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**PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Define mechanical jigging gear separate from dinglebar troll gear and establish limits on hooks to be used, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**(m) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a mechanical jigging machine is a device that deploys a single line with lures or baited hooks and retrieves that line with electrical, hydraulic, or mechanically powered assistance. A mechanical jigging machine allows the line to be fished only in the water column, in a manner that the hooks connected to the line are fished above the seafloor and the line is oriented vertically within the water column. A mechanical jigging machine line may not be pulled through the water or deployed while the vessel is making way. A mechanical jigging machine must be attached to a vessel registered to fish with a mechanical jigging machine. The mechanical jigging machine line may not be anchored to the seafloor or operated unattached from the vessel. No more than five mechanical jigging machines may be operated from a vessel, with no more than 30 hooks per line operated from a mechanical jigging machine.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current statewide definition (5 AAC 39.105(d)(25)) for mechanical jigging machines is not detailed enough to clearly distinguish mechanical jig gear from dinglebar troll gear for fisheries in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Dinglebar troll gear is a single line that is retrieved and set with a troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight from which one or more leaders with one or more hooks are pulled through the water while a vessel is making way. This fishing line is towed through the water parallel to the seafloor and is quite effective at harvesting lingcod. Vessels using dinglebar troll gear are limited to

the operation of a single line, a regulatory restriction that industry requested during the development of the directed lingcod fishery in the 1990s.

The statewide definition of mechanical jigging machine is vague enough that a permit holder fishing under that type of permit may utilize gear intended for dinglebar fishing and avoid the single line dinglebar restriction. Trolling a line of horizontally-oriented hooks over the sea floor is not the customary fishing method associated with mechanical jig machines. Without a clear distinction between mechanical jig and dinglebar troll gears, fishermen using dinglebar troll gear to harvest lingcod will be able to fish multiple lines by fishing under the auspices of a mechanical jig permit. Fishermen using multiple dinglebar lines will have higher catch rates of lingcod, which will complicate inseason management of these fisheries; the East Yakutat area allocation is already taken in as few as three or four days under the dinglebar single line restriction.

Current Eastern Gulf of Alaska regulations do not limit the number of mechanical jigging machines or hooks that may be used in groundfish fisheries in this area. The proposed limits on jig machines and hooks would standardize the Southeast groundfish fisheries mechanical jig regulations with the rest of the state; i.e. Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Chignik, and South Alaska Peninsula areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-076)  
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**PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 28.173. Lingcod possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Increase minimum commercial lingcod size limit to 30 inches from tip of snout, or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin, to tip of tail, as follows:

All lingcod retained must measure at least 30 inches from tip of snout to tip of tail or 22.75 inches from front of dorsal fin of tip of tail.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increase lingcod minimum length for retention in the commercial fishery from 27 inches to 30 inches  
Lingcod is a highly valued fish in commercial, sport, subsistence and personal use fisheries and as such, should be protected.

1. This can be done without harm to the commercial fishery due to the fact that the allocation is based on pounds, not number of fish.
2. The harvest will not change but the number of fish left in the water for recruitment in future years will increase.
3. The result will be a higher quality product and reduced processing costs.
4. It will bring size limits in line with the lower slot limit for inside sport fisheries.
5. Lingcod are a hardy fish and can tolerate being released if under the legal size limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-012)  
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**PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.** Allow commercial salmon fishermen using troll gear in Sitka Sound to retain up to two lingcod per trip for personal use, as follows:

Allow trollers in the Sitka Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) to catch and retain up to two lingcod per trip for home-pack provided that they are marked in a manner that the department specifies so as to distinguish them from salable fish. (i.e. trim the lobes of the tail or remove the anal fin, etc.) The retention of these fish is to be recorded on a fish ticket upon landing.

5 AAC 28.150 New subsection: Not withstanding

**(a) of this section, up to two lingcod per trip may be retained as bycatch in the salmon troll fishery in the waters described in (a) of this section. The department may mandate that these fish be retained for personal use and may not be sold and may further require that any such lingcod aboard a troller fishing in the waters defined in (a) of this section be marked by removing the fin(s) to ensure that they are not sold.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unlike halibut longliners, salmon trollers are not currently permitted to retain bycatch lingcod when fishing within the Sitka LAMP. While some restriction on commercial sale of bycatch lingcod in the LAMP may be appropriate, the current regulations do not even allow for retention of lingcod for personal use. The local lingcod population is healthy enough to support a small amount of additional harvest. Trollers that catch a lingcod or two in waters outside of the LAMP have to offload their lingcod before they can fish within the LAMP. The Central Southeast Outside quota for troll bycatch lingcod is rarely, if ever, taken.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tad Fujioka

(EF-C14-102)

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**PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.** Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use area lingcod regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(g)(1)(A) is repealed:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(1) in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, defined as that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.,

(A) **repealed** / / [THE NONRESIDENT BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LINGCOD IS A BAG LIMIT OF ONE FISH, AND POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO FISH];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lingcod regulations for the Sitka Sound Special Use Area have been superseded by more conservative regulations established by regional emergency orders. Emergency orders have been issued each year since 2001 to manage for the sport fishery allocation, and are expected to be issued annually for the



foreseeable future. Specific lingcod regulations for the Sitka Sound Special Use Area are no longer necessary.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-090)  
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**PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 47.030. Methods, means, and general provisions - Finfish.** Require all anglers releasing nonpelagic rockfish to release them at depth, and require at least one deep water release mechanism on board vessels used by sport anglers, as follows:

The regulation to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth as written for guided anglers should be extended to apply to all sport fishers, including the requirement to have on board at least one operable at-depth release mechanism.

All sport-caught non-pelagic rockfish that are intended to be released must be released at the depth they were caught or at least 100', whichever is shallower.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently only guided fishers are required to release non-pelagic rockfish at depth. Statistically it is estimated that there is as much as an 80% survival rate for non-pelagic rockfish that are released at depth. While it is not practical for the commercial fishery to release at depth, there is no reason why all other sport harvesters should not also be required to release non-pelagics at depth in order to conserve the resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-016)  
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**PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 47.065. Demersal shelf rockfish delegation of authority and provisions for management.** Repeal mandatory retention requirements for nonpelagic rockfish, as follows:

[ALL NON-PELAGIC ROCKFISH CAUGHT MUST BE RETAINED UNTIL THE BAG LIMIT IS REACHED.]

No other changes to the regulation would be required.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, guided fishers are required to retain all non-pelagic rockfish until the limit is reached, after which, if additional non-pelagic rockfish are caught they must be released at depth.

Often very small non-pelagic rockfish are caught, retained and wasted because they are too small to salvage any practical amount of meat after being fileted. They are considered simply not worth the effort.

In addition to smaller rockfish, it is common for larger non-pelagic rockfish to be caught while targeting other species. The fact the angler is targeting other species often indicates that rockfish

are an unintended and unwanted catch. Rockfish are not allowed to be retained by crew. Under current regulations non-pelagic rockfish must be retained until a limit is achieved, whether they are wanted or not, often resulting in undesired retention and unnecessary mortalities.

The harvest and waste of non-pelagic rockfish can be prevented if the regulations allowed discretion in the release at depth of such rockfish prior to achieving a limit. Release at depth is estimated to result in 80% survivability, but a rockfish retained results in 100% mortality. The resulting waste causes frustration to clients and guides alike, and calls into question the practicality of the regulation as written.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Westlund and Larry McQuarrie (HQ-F14-011)

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**PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.** Repeal Sitka Sound Special Use Area and Ketchikan Area nonpelagic rockfish regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(g)(1)(B) is repealed:

(g) In the Sitka vicinity:

(1) in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, defined as that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.,

...

(B) **repealed** / / [THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN ONE MAY BE A YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH];

5 AAC 47.021(j)(1) is repealed:

(j) In the vicinity of Ketchikan:

(1) **repealed** / / [IN THE WATERS OF BEHM CANAL, CLARENCE STRAIT, TONGASS NARROWS, NICHOLS PASSAGE, GEORGE INLET, CARROLL INLET, THORNE ARM, REVILLAGIGEDO CHANNEL, AND ALL CONTIGUOUS WATERS ENCLOSED BY THE LATITUDE OF BUSHY POINT LIGHT (55° 44.00' N. LAT.), A LINE FROM POINT ALAVA TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF HAM ISLAND, A LINE FROM CEDAR POINT TO DALL HEAD TO A POINT IN MIDSTREAM CLARENCE STRAIT AT THE LATITUDE OF DALL HEAD (55° 07.12' N. LAT.) TO CAAMANO POINT, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR NONPELAGIC ROCKFISH IS THREE FISH, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN ONE MAY BE A YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH];

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nonpelagic rockfish regulations in the Sitka Sound Special Use and Ketchikan areas have been superseded by more conservative regulations established by regional emergency orders. Emergency orders have been issued annually since 2006 to manage for the sport fishery allocation, and are expected to be issued annually for the foreseeable future. Nonpelagic rockfish regulations specific to the Sitka Sound Special Use and Ketchikan areas are no longer necessary.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-091)  
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**PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 28.150. 5 AAC 32.150. 5 AAC 38.XXX. 5 AAC 47.021. 5 AAC 77.6XX.** Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users, as follows:

Create a micro marine conservation zone around Cache Island, Naha Bay Southeast Alaska; where all bottom fishing, crabbing and shrimping will be prohibited by all groups. The no fish zone will extend from shore out to 300 feet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Help depleted bottom fish rebound and relieve stress of over fishing for bottom fish species and shellfish.

Micro marine conservation zones have been successfully created around the globe and have enabled fish populations to rebound successfully from the stresses of over fishing. Rather than regulate the single species of fishes; micro conservation zones help to restore and sustain an entire ecosystem and their inhabitants. In setting aside a small area; the conservation zone will have little effect on user groups. But their impact on the fish populations will be significant over time and will benefit areas beyond the conservation zone. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough set aside all the islands from Clover Pass to Naha Bay as preservation islands where no development is allowed. We are taking it one step further and creating the water around Cache Island as a conservation zone. They work together.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naha Conservation (EF-C14-187)  
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