

PROPOSAL 216 – 5 AAC 28.1XX. Southeast Alaska Area Walleye Pollock Management Plan. Establish a state waters walleye pollock purse seine fishery in Southeast Alaska as follows.

Establish a pollock seine fishery from mid-October to March in southeast Alaska state waters for vessels up to 58' in length. Limit landings to 200,000 pounds. Observer coverage would be determined by results of commissioner's permit, but could be up to 100% using observer or combination of observer and video monitoring. Observer costs to be covered by harvest vessels.

Trawl gear to remain illegal.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? According to the 2014 NMFS report: *Assessment of Alaska walleye pollock in the Gulf of Alaska*, pollock are abundant in southeast Alaska state waters. Because trawling is band east of longitude 144 there is no state or federal directed fishery on pollock. This underutilized resource could and should be developed to benefit fishermen, communities, and the State of Alaska. Therefore, we request that the Board of Fisheries create a State of Alaska pollock seine fishery encompassing state waters of southeast Alaska from Dixon Entrance to Cape Spencer. Initially use National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) survey estimates of biomass to set guideline harvest levels or acceptable biological catch (ABC) at 20% of the stock biomass (point estimate for 2015 is 56,111 tons). The biomass of pollock in southeast Alaska is likely much higher considering the NMFS trawl surveys are based on catches at Dixon Entrance and outside waters and do not include sampling the 350 miles of inside waters.

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