

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 28.190. Harvest of bait by commercial permit holders in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Expand description of allowable groundfish parts that may be used as bait, as follows:

The holder of a valid CFEC interim use or limited entry permit may take groundfish in the waters of Alaska in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area for use as bait in the commercial fishery for which the permit is held as follows:

(1) except for sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish, groundfish may be taken at any time; sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may not be taken for bait or used for bait, except that the head, tail, fins, **closely trimmed skeleton**, and viscera of delivered and processed commercial sablefish, lingcod, and thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may be used for bait;

(2)...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Clarify Parts of Groundfish That May Be Used as Bait:

In 2012, at the request of the Department, the BoF amended 5 AAC 28.190(1) that strictly prohibited the use of certain commercially caught groundfish species as bait to make clear that unsalable scraps could be used as bait. The specific language was copied from 5 AAC 75.026 (b), an existing regulation that addressed the use of sport-caught fish as bait. In 2013 however, the BoF realized that the latter regulation was lacking and modified it to specifically include filleted-out carcasses among the parts of the fish that are legal to use as bait when sportfishing. The commercial regulation was not addressed at that time.

This proposal simply seeks to once again match the wording in 5 AAC 28.190(1) with the language in 5 AAC 75.026(b). This would make the commercial regulation more clearly align with the department's original intent "to allow all waste products-anything that would be headed to the grinder" to be used as bait. (SE Groundfish Manager to the Sitka AC during Dec 6, 2011 meeting). This is in keeping with common practice and common sense.

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