

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 28.206. Prince William Sound Area registration.

Add specific registration requirements for Prince William Sound Area groundfish fisheries, as follows:

Add a new subsection (d) to read:

(d) In the Prince William Sound Area, prior to operating a vessel in a directed fishery for lingcod or Pacific cod during a parallel season, or Pacific cod during a state-waters season as described in 5 AAC 28.267, the vessel operator or authorized agent must obtain a fishery-specific registration for that vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Some requirements of area registration are described under statewide regulation 5 AAC 28.020, including that a registration must be obtained before a vessel operates gear within a registration area and specifies the conditions that invalidate a registration. In the Prince William Sound Registration Area (PWS), there are fishery-specific registration requirements listed for walleye pollock and sablefish under 5 AAC 28.206, as these two fisheries have registration deadlines. However, aside from describing exclusivity for gear types in the Pacific cod state-waters season, there are no clear requirements for registration in the Pacific cod and lingcod fisheries described under 5 AAC 28.206. This has caused some confusion for PWS fishermen registered in a nonexclusive parallel Pacific cod season to consider themselves also registered for the nonexclusive directed lingcod fishery. Although the *PWS Pacific Cod Management Plan*, 5 AAC 28.267, states that registration is required for the state-waters season, specifying registration requirements for each PWS groundfish fishery and identifying these registration requirements in regulations pertaining to PWS registration would provide clarity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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