

**PROPOSAL 1**

**5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Repeal and replace the *Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan* with management measures found in the *Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan*, as follows:

The recently created Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery has been very successful and proved that 58-foot pot vessels can efficiently and effectively harvest cod in the Bering Sea. To improve access for traditional state-waters fishermen, I recommend the Board of Fisheries repeal the Aleutian Island Subdistrict Pacific cod management plan and replace it with the same management measures found in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific cod management plan (5 A.AC 287.648). This would follow a proven and consistent management approach and will align the Aleutian Islands Subdistrict with all the other state-waters Pacific cod fisheries around the state.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod management plan is overly complex and inconsistent with all other state-waters Pacific cod fisheries in Alaska. State-waters Pacific cod fisheries were established to support local fixed gear (pot and jig) cod fishermen by specifically allocating cod quota to each gear type which provides stability for local fleets and allows for long term investment into the fishery. In the Aleutian Islands state-waters fishery, pot, jig, longline, and bottom trawl vessels up to 100 feet in length can participate. Bottom trawling inside state-waters is almost exclusively prohibited in all other areas of the state. Additionally, the Aleutian Islands state-waters GHL is not allocated to the different gear types which makes it difficult to commit to traveling to one of the most remote fishing locations in Alaska without any understanding on how much fishing time will be available to you once you get there.

With the recent collapse of cod stocks in the Gulf of Alaska, processors are available and 58- foot pot vessels are ready and capable of catching the full GHL. Access to these fish will be critical for traditional state-waters Pacific cod participants for the foreseeable future.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ron Kavanaugh

(HQ-F18-005)

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