

**PROPOSAL 159**

**5 AAC 27.610. Fishing seasons and periods for Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area, and 5 AAC 27.655 Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.**

Change season start dates and allocation between drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery, as follows:

Remove the allocation and season timing sector splits between the gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery, aligning them within a shared fishery where 100% of the allocation and fishing time is available to both gear types.

In 5 AAC 27.655, strike sections (a) and (b) establishing separate allocations to the gillnet and purse seine gear groups.

In 5 AAC 27.610, under section (e) (2), align the season start dates of the gillnet and purse seine gear groups.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Observations on the fishing grounds show herring are arriving to both the Togiak and Dutch Harbor districts earlier. This resulted in a drastic under-harvest in 2016, when the Dutch Harbor fleet was able to capture only 208 tons of the 2,166 allocated. In 2017, reports from local fishermen and processors indicated herring had again returned to the district early, in late June. Timing and allocation separation of the gillnet and purse seine fleets in Dutch Harbor — only one of which has been active in the last 10 years — prevents managers from opening the full fishery to active participants in response to these shifts.

ADFG has recorded zero participation from the Dutch Harbor herring gillnet fleet since 2009. For five years prior to 2009 the effort was small enough to trigger confidentiality requirements that precludes the state from reporting that effort. The purse seine fleet, on the other hand, has maintained consistent participation in the harvest of this important resource. For these reasons, it makes the most sense to remove the now inapplicable allocation split and season start difference between the purse seine and gillnet fleets. This allows managers the flexibility to open the fishery to active participants in response to run timing, managing for effective harvest and in consideration of the ecological changes occurring in Western Alaska and the North Pacific.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Veerhusen

(EF-F18-101)

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**PROPOSAL 160**

**5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan.**

Allow pot gear to be longlined during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640 is amended to read:

...

(c) Sablefish may be taken only with pots, longlines, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear. Pots may be longlined in the Aleutian Islands **and Western** Districts [, BUT MAY NOT BE LONGLINED IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT].

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The National Marine Fisheries Service amended federal regulations in 2017 to allow use of longlined pot gear for harvesting sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska IFQ sablefish fishery. Concurrent to the federal fishery, the state opens a state-waters sablefish fishery in the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area. State and federal sablefish regulations are generally aligned to provide consistency for participants that fish in both fisheries. This proposal would realign state and federal gear regulations by allowing for longlined pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-018)

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