

## **PROPOSAL 9**

### **5 AAC 28.650 Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.**

Close waters of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict to groundfish fishing with non-pelagic trawl gear while the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod season is open, as follows:

A total closure to trawling in Bering Sea state waters while the Area O state waters pot cod season is open.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Our boats continually lose pots to draggers in the Bering sea pot cod fisheries. In the federal fishery this can perhaps be mitigated but it seems less avoidable.

Within state waters and in our very own Alaskan Area O pot cod fishery we shouldn't have to contend with super huge trawlers using us as bait stations and circling our gear.

There should be no trawling in state waters while our fishery is being prosecuted.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Magnus Thorstenson Jr (EF-F18-042)  
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**PROPOSAL 10**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Extend the eastern boundary of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

(a) This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict. For the purposes of this section, the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is comprised of the state waters in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W. long. and the state waters of the Bering Sea District that are west of **162° 30' W. long.**[164° W. long.], east of 170° W. long., and south of 55° 30' N. lat., except that the waters of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict south of 53° 06.11' N. lat. are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why**We would like to provide local BSAI vessels expanded opportunity to harvest Pacific cod in State-waters more accessible to the local fishing communities. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod fishery has been tremendously successful, in that the GHL has been easily achieved, and the fishery gives the local under 60 foot vessel pot gear fleet an opportunity to fish locally. Expanding the fishing area up the beach northeast to Moffet Point will create more opportunity for local vessels, and provide much needed cod for the local shore-based processors.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-043)  
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**PROPOSAL 11**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Establish a state-waters Pacific cod harvest allocation for jig gear vessels in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, as follows:

100,000 lbs of jig quota, state waters non exclusive sub area from 167W to 170W.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** If the Makushin area is closed jig boats could still fish and for jig boats to be able to fish the North side of Umnak Island as pot boats in the summer. Jig boats only need a small amount of quota as this just gives us more opportunity and if not caught it is a small amount of the overall quota. Follow all the same rules that apply to the State waters pot fishery, just be non exclusive. If regulation not changed we cannot fish on the N side on Umnak island and if the Makushin area is closed due to longliners early this whole area is shut down for jig boats.

**PROPOSED BY:** Adam Lalich (HQ-F18-028)  
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**PROPOSAL 12**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Increase guideline harvest level to 20 percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea, as follows:

The Area O under 60 pot cod fishery would be increased to 20% of the Bering sea TAC  
The state has been behind in every season except 2014. In 2015 we were closed early. In 2016 we were closed early. We’ve lost tens of millions of pounds of cod that could have been harvested by pots, thus significantly reducing bycatch in the Bering sea both of Bering sea salmon and halibut but also in salmon and halibut originating as far away as Washington and Oregon. Even saving a few southeast alaska Kings seems to be putting an enormous financial burden on other commercial fishermen and sports and charter users as well. Long gone are the days we can ignore the rampant impacts of drawling and factory longlining in the Bering sea and impacts across the entire state of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

Any underutilized quota would be transferred to the over 60 pot fleet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The pot cod quota for area O needs to be raised to 20% of the total Bering sea TAC. The current state waters season was closed March 1. In 2014, we fished the inaugural state waters season until May 1 and it remained open long after that. While I and my crew and fishing partners have been grateful for the privilege of harvesting pacific cod in a way that creates a de minimus bycatch. This has been the single most economic expansion for Alaskan small boat fishermen since limited entry or the advent of IFQs. Every pound of cod we catch will produce benefits far beyond that single pound. For it negates the bycatch impact that another pound of cod caught with any other gear type.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Magnus Thorstenson Jr (EF-F18-040)  
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**PROPOSAL 13**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod.**

Increase Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level to 10% of the acceptable biological catch for Pacific cod in the federal Bering Sea subarea and expand the area eastward, as follows:

Increase the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level from 6.4% to 10% of the acceptable biological catch for Pacific cod in the federal Bering Sea subarea. Increase the area of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict eastward, to include state waters to Longitude line 163 degree 30 minutes west (False Pass sea-buoy).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Provide additional harvest opportunity for the 58-foot and under pot cod fleet, in order to better capture the value this fleet offers to Alaska through harvest of its near-shore resources.

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery is a fully utilized fishery that has provided meaningful economic benefits to boats and businesses operating in Western Alaska since

it began in 2014. The modest 3% initial allocation to this fishery in its pilot stages allowed managers to test the fishery’s viability and industry effort. After showing strong participation from the under-58 pot cod fleet, this fishery received another modest uptick in GHL during the 2016 board cycle. In keeping with this precedent for step-up development, a GHL increase at this time is an appropriate next step in the evolution of this successful state-water fishery. In addition, an area increase is a valuable tool for spreading out the effort of an expanding fleet, which has grown steadily from its 2014 pilot stages into a vibrant and promising fishery. This new area can and should be established with appropriate considerations for marine mammal protected areas and other important habitats, in collaboration with industry representatives, and state and federal managers.

The under-58 pot cod fleet is largely comprised of vessels that are owned, crewed and maintained by Alaskans. They utilize gear with very low bycatch rates, and through their economic activity, provide a high value directly to the state, Alaskan communities and Alaskan fishermen. Interest in the fishery has consistently increased, and its ongoing success offers a meaningful opportunity for the state and its residents. The potential and strengths of this fishery have outgrown the modest allocations that they started with, warranting an allocation increase and area expansion.

**PROPOSED BY:** Under Sixty Cod Harvesters (EF-F18-065)  
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**PROPOSAL 14**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Increase Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery guideline harvest level to 8% of the acceptable biological catch for Pacific cod in the federal Bering Sea subarea and expand the area eastward, as follows:

(a) This management plan governs the harvest of Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict. For the purposes of this section, the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is comprised of the state waters in the Aleutian Islands District east of 170° W. long. and the state waters of the Bering Sea District that are west of **162° 30' W. long.**[164° W. long.], east of 170° W. long., and south of 55° 30' N. lat., except that the waters of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict south of 53° 06.11' N. lat. are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

(e) During a state-waters season, (1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is **8 percent** [6.4 percent] of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Local vessels fishing for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict State-waters fishery are looking to expand the fishery so that is more accessible to the local fishing communities, by expanding the fishing area and GHL. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod fishery has been successful and the GHL has been fully harvested year after year. This fishery gives the local under 60 foot vessel pot gear fleet a chance to fish locally. Expanding the fishing area further northeast to Moffet Point and raising the GHL by an amount proportionate to the expanded fishing area will create more opportunity for our local vessels, and provide much needed cod for the growing local shore-based processors.

PROPOSED BY: Ernie Weiss

(EF-F18-094)

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**PROPOSAL 15**

**5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Limit the amount of Pacific cod that may be onboard a vessel participating in the Dutch Harbor subdistrict Pacific cod fishery to 150,000 pounds and require daily harvest reports, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

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(e) During a state-waters season,

**(A) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is 6.4 percent of the estimated total harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Subarea;**

**(B) A vessel may not have more than 150,000 round pounds of unprocessed Pacific cod onboard the vessel at any time; a vessel may not have onboard the vessel more processed fish than the round weight equivalent of the fish reported on ADF&G fish tickets; a validly registered vessel must report daily to the department the pounds of Pacific cod taken and on board the vessel;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The increasing size and efficiency of the 58' and under Bering Sea Area O pot cod fishery is increasingly putting the smaller vessels that prosecute the fishery at a greater disadvantage. The size of the largest 58' foot vessels prosecuting the fishery does not resemble a small boat fishery. A change in regulations is needed to slow the pace and increase the season length.

If nothing is done larger boats will continue to take an increasingly large proportion of the GHM making smaller and entry level vessels increasingly less economically viable in prosecuting the fishery.

Capacity size restrictions were considered and rejected. Larger vessels are safer and more comfortable to work from and the Larger capacity can be utilized in other fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Wilder

(EF-F18-092)

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**PROPOSAL 16**

**5 AAC 28.537. Chignik Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.**

Resolve conflict in season opening dates between Chignik Area state-waters and parallel Pacific cod fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 28.357 is amended to read: