

PROPOSAL 10

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

Change Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery season open date to seven days following closure of the federal BSAI pot/longline vessel under 60 feet season or March 7, whichever is later, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648(d)

(d) The state-waters season shall open as follows:

- (1) for pot gear, at 12:00 noon **on March 7 or** seven days following the closure of the initial season for the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel less than 60 feet in overall length sector, **whichever is later;**
- (2) for mechanical jigging machines, on May 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Traditional and local knowledge indicate Pacific Cod migrate throughout the winter months from Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) to the Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) spawning grounds via Unimak Pass. Aligning state-waters season start dates would provide equitable opportunities to both regions, as they are targeting much of the same stock of Pacific Cod. This would also prevent localized depletion by allowing some portion of the migrating stock to spawn in the WGOA before returning to the BSAI, where they would remain subject to harvest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the False Pass AC with input from fishermen and community members throughout the region.

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-112)
