

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 28.050. Lawful gear for groundfish.

Prohibit vessels from having other groundfish gear or equipment onboard while participating in a groundfish fishery using mechanical jigging machines or hand troll gear, as follows:

In the statewide jig fishery, vessels registered to jig fish may only carry mechanical jigging machines and hand troll gear. Long line gear, reels, drums, and slinky pots are prohibited on board while prosecuting the fishery, traveling to or from the fishing grounds or offloading jig cod harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Compelling circumstantial evidence suggests that vessels registered and prosecuting the Kodiak area state water jig fishery are using additional groundfish gear such as longline gear and slinky pots. Delivery patterns and offload volumes between vessels only carrying jig gear vs. vessels that have longline and slinky pots on board, in addition to jig gear, indicate that nefarious and illegal behavior is occurring. Boats with snap-on longline reels onboard, in addition to jig gear, have been observed delivering fish with intact snaps and hooks still attached to the fish..

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed by jig fishermen who did extensive outreach to the jig fleet. The jig fleet also consulted with Kodiak area managers and Alaska state troopers.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Jig Association

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