

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 28.050. Lawful gear for groundfish.

Prohibit vessels from having more than one groundfish gear type onboard when participating in a state-managed groundfish fishery.

5 AAC 28.050 Lawful gear for groundfish

(a) Unless otherwise provided or restricted by specific groundfish regulations in this chapter, groundfish may be taken only by trawls, hand troll gear, seines, mechanical jigging machines, dinglebar troll gear, longlines, or pots, except that

(1) king and Tanner crab pots as described in 5 AAC 34.050(2) and 5 AAC 35.050(2) may not be used to take groundfish;

(2) repealed 5/31/98.

(b) a vessel may not possess onboard more than one lawful gear type for harvesting groundfish while actively fishing in a groundfish fishery

(c)[B] All commercial longline or skate gear buoys, or kegs and buoys for groundfish pots, must be marked as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With smaller GHL's of Pacific Cod in recent years, and lower dock prices for cod, individuals who rely heavily on the jig fishery to provide operating income prior to the summer salmon season are finding their season's cut drastically short by operators who utilize longline equipment and slinky pots to harvest cod from the jig sector allocation. There is currently no regulation that prohibits a vessel from having jig machines, longline equipment, and pot gear all on board, and this would provide a meaningful regulation that enforcement could use to ensure a fishery is prosecuted by the user group the sector allocation was intended for.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I developed this proposal on my own.

PROPOSED BY: Nate Rose

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