

PROPOSAL 3

5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level from 30% to 40%, with provisions to step up to a maximum of 50% of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area if the full guideline harvest level is caught annually, as follows:

Increasing the TAC of the South Alaska Peninsula (Area M) from 30% to 40% of the ABC of the WGOA, with a stair step increase by 5% if the quota is caught in any given year, with a maximum TAC of 50% . Increases local fleet utilization of the resource:

(h) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is [30] **(40)** percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, **with a 5% increase in any given year if the quota is caught, and an additional 5% following any given year if the quota is caught, to a maximum of 50% of the TAC.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Several years back, the WGOA cod quota was cut by 80%, leading to a steep economic decline in our area. Subsequently, the state waters cod quota was cut proportionally. The state waters quota is important to the local fleet, as many smaller boats do not participate in the federal fishery. Having more quota in the State fishery would be beneficial to the economic stability of the AEB by providing more jobs to the local fleet. The timing of the State waters fishery also coincides with a mass convergence of the cod resource.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Discussed and deliberated with Sand Point AC and community input.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown on behalf of Sand Point Advisory Committee (EF-F26-166)
