

PROPOSAL 5

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 pot gear allocation is caught annually, as follows:

(5 AAC 28.577) (h)(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is ~~30% of the estimated~~ total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area;

Alternate language:

(5 AAC 28.577) (h)(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area is **40% of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area; if the pot portion of this allocation is fully harvested by May 31 in any year the overall allocation will increase by 5% in the next year and continue until the allocation caps out at 50% of the** total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Several factors have combined over the last two decades to severely erode the local fleets access to the federal cod TAC in the western GOA. First Stellar Sea Lion protections removed valuable near shore fishing grounds from small vessels <58. Second sector splits broke up these same vessels ability to quickly switch gear types to most efficiently and cleanly harvest the single cod TAC, along with the creation of A and B seasons sector splits which consistently strand large portions of the TAC. Third the recent upheaval in the processing sector has been felt most acutely in this region and many vessels have been left without market access, encouraging new processors into the region without stable management structure is nearly impossible. Lastly the recent rationalization of the Bering Sea cod trawl fleet has inadequate sideboards to protect the WG based <58 Trawl fleet which is a large portion of the state water pot fleet being outcompeted by larger vessels that are in the area after fishing in a quota share fishery.

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 King Cove AC and input from fishermen throughout the region.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-043)
