

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area and 5 AAC 28.5XX. New Section

Establish closed waters adjacent to Unimak Pass during the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict and South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fisheries, as follows:

To ensure the unobstructed migration of Pacific Cod through Unimak Pass and to promote equitable fishing opportunities, we propose the establishment of two (2) no-fishing zones. These zones will include areas within and directly adjacent to Unimak Pass where migrating fish are most concentrated, for both the SAP and DHS management areas.

5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.

- (a) All waters of Alaska surrounding St. Matthew, Hall, and Pinnacle Islands are closed to commercial groundfish fishing.
- (b) The waters of Unalaska Bay south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54° 00.50' N. lat., 166° 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54° 01' N. lat., 166° 40' W. long. are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear.
- (c) The waters of the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict, described in 5 AAC 28.648(a), that are south of 53° 06.11' N. lat. are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.
- (d) All waters of Alaska adjacent to Unimak Island west of 164° 48.200' W. long are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.**

5 AAC 28.5XX. (New Section) Closed waters in South Alaska Peninsula Area

(a) All waters of Alaska adjacent to Unimak Island west of 164° 19.200' W. long are closed to taking Pacific cod during a state-waters season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unimak Pass serves as a critical migration corridor for Pacific Cod between the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska. Given the geographic proximity of the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) and Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters fisheries, as well as increasing competition between fleets, a “buffer zone” at the southwest end of Unimak Is. would prevent unfair advantages. This designated area would be closed for both fisheries, ensuring resource sustainability, reducing potential conflicts, and promoting equitable access to each 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 False Pass AC with input from fishermen and community members throughout the region.

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-116)
