

ALASKA PENINSULA, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, BERING SEA,
AND CHIGNIK PACIFIC COD (11 PROPOSALS)
Commercial Fisheries (11 proposals)
South Alaska Peninsula Area (8 proposals)

PROPOSAL 1

Increase South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level from 30% to 50% of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL from 30 percent to 50 percent of the Western Gulf of Alaska TAC.

Communities in the South Peninsula are dependent on the Pacific Cod fishery and the local fleet are primarily <60 pot vessels. Local communities and harvesters have suffered from recent declines in WGOA quota, and allocating more TAC into the state-waters fishery would provide a more stable harvest opportunity to locals throughout the region.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod on the South Alaska Peninsula area is 50 [30] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of the Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

PROPOSED BY: Steven D. Gould (EF-F26-060)

PROPOSAL 2

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 50% of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, as follows:

Increase the GHL for the South AK. Pen (SAP) pot cod fishery from the existing 30% of WGOA ABC to 50% of the WGOA. ABC

The Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) state managed fishery is 50% of the estimated federal WGOA ABC.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The state water cod GHL is currently too small to support a viable fishery for the local fleets of the A.E.B. Due to the fact there is basically no more trawl cod fishery and federal pot cod fishery for the local fishermen of these communities I feel it's extremely necessary for a larger GHL. It's a matter of survival for the fishermen and communities of this area. It also addresses bycatch issues which is frequently mentioned in some of the Pacific cod fisheries in WGOA.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have conferred with other local fishermen that participate in these fisheries. They agree to this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Dwain A. Foster Sr.

(HQ-F26-002)

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)

PROPOSAL 4

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:

Having more cod quota to catch in the state water fishery would give the local fleet more fish to catch. Increase the TAC in SAP to 40% with a step up if the TAC is caught of 5% each year to up to 50%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With cuts to cod quota in WGOA, local fleet is struggling to make ends meet.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Self

PROPOSED BY: Danny Cumberlidge (HQ-F26-001)

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)

PROPOSAL 6

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? Insufficient Guideline Harvest Levels (GHL) have threatened the viability of pot fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula (SAP) cod fishery. State managed fisheries are intended to prioritize local fleets by providing more stable access and reinforcing local economic benefit. Shifting a greater share of the WGOA federal quota into the state-waters fishery will enhance and support local fleets and communities exponentially.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: False Pass Advisory Committee (EF-F26-114)

PROPOSAL 7

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 50%, with provisions to step up to a maximum of 60% 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:

Quota is 30% of federal TAC now. I would like it bumped up to 50% and if that gets caught up to 60%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like more fish in state waters in South Peninsula to make more opportunities for the local boats.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Arthur Holmberg (HQ-F26-003)

PROPOSAL 8

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 50%, with provisions to step up to a maximum of 60% 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 state water quota to 50% of federal quota in WG with stair step provision to go up to 60% of federal TAC in 5% a year increases.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With the cod quota getting drastically reduced in WGOA local fishermen are having harder time with cod fishing. More local fish would help greatly.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No, thought of it all by myself.

PROPOSED BY: Dale Pedersen

(HQ-F26-004)

South Alaska Peninsula Area and Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (1 proposal)

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)

Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Change Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod pot gear fishery season open date to seven days following closure of the federal BSAI pot/longline vessel under 60 feet season or March 7, whichever is later, as follows:

5 AAC 28.648(d)

(d) The state-waters season shall open as follows:

- (1) for pot gear, at 12:00 noon **on March 7 or** seven days following the closure of the initial season for the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands hook-and-line and pot catcher vessel less than 60 feet in overall length sector, **whichever is later;**
- (2) for mechanical jigging machines, on May 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Traditional and local knowledge indicate Pacific Cod migrate throughout the winter months from Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) to the Western Gulf of Alaska (WGOA) spawning grounds via Unimak Pass. Aligning state-waters season start dates would provide equitable opportunities to both regions, as they are targeting much of the same stock of Pacific Cod. This would also prevent localized depletion by allowing some portion of the migrating stock to spawn in the WGOA before returning to the BSAI, where they would remain subject to harvest.

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-F26-112)

Aleutian Islands (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 11

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

Close state waters to commercial groundfish fishing with trawl gear west of 170° W. longitude, as follows:

(d)All waters of Alaska west of 170° W. long. are closed to commercial groundfish fishing with nonpelagic and pelagic trawl gear.

(Boards Support note: this proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the AK Pen/AI/BS/Chignik Pacific cod and AK Pen/AI/Chignik finfish meetings and will be deliberated at the AK Pen/AI/Chignik finfish meeting)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are concerned about increased factory trawl activity in Aleutian Islands golden king crab habitat and the associated impacts to the resource. Several traditional golden king crab fishing areas have been overrun by large trawlers and there is additional concern about their operations in areas where female and juvenile crab tend to concentrate.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Proposal created on behalf of the F/V Alaska Trojan

PROPOSED BY: Linda Kozak

(EF-F26-025)
