

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 28.6XX. Aleutian Islands District Atka Mackerel Management Plan. Establish a state-waters Atka mackerel fishery, as follows:

- Area – state waters between 172° and 180° W longitude.
- Gear – existing Area M salmon seine gear length and depth limits.
- GHL – within current unused jig allocation (X lb).
- Vessel size limit – under 60 feet.
- Check-in – fishery registration.
- Catch reporting – daily reports to ADF&G.
- Season – to be determined by staff to accommodate necessary catch accounting.
- Mirror current parallel fishery Steller sea lion restrictions.

ISSUE: Develop a state-waters Atka mackerel fishery for vessels 60 feet and under, from 172° W long to 180° W long, using seine gear. Harvest levels would be determined from a yet-to-be specified percentage of the federal annual biological catch limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Atka mackerel will be managed in state waters as a parallel fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Vessel operators wanting a state-waters fishery using seine gear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Vessel operators who fish Atka mackerel under the parallel/federal rules.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

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