

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Increase the 2020 Aleutian Islands Subdistrict state-waters guideline harvest level if 2019 Pacific cod harvest by trawl catcher vessel participants in the federal Unrestricted Fishery diminishes access to the full Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside, as follows:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The NPFMC established an Aleutian Islands Catcher Vessel Harvest Set-Aside of Pacific cod (Amendment 113) to help sustain AI communities west of 170 degrees by providing priority access to that AI CV Set-Aside. Amendment 113 regulations also allowed participants in the AI Unrestricted Fishery to harvest Pacific cod for processing other than by AI shorebased plants.

In 2018 an accounting issue was discovered which resulted in CV trawl catch of cod in the Unrestricted Fishery reducing the amount of cod that could then be accessed from the AI CV Set-Aside. The NPFMC is working to close this unintended loophole, but the regulatory amendment may not be implemented before the 2019 fishery.

The NPFMC asked participants in the Unrestricted Fishery to honor the Council’s intent through a voluntary stand-down during the 2018 season, but some participants chose not to stand-down. We ask the Board of Fish to help reinforce the need for a voluntary stand-down to protect the AI communities.

PROPOSED BY: Adak Community Development Corporation/City of Adak (EF-F18-089)
