

PROPOSAL 5

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

Reduce maximum allowable vessel size to 55 feet in length inside state waters near Unalaska Bay, as follows:

(e) During a state-waters season,

(2) Pacific cod may be taken only with ground fish pots and mechanical jigging machines as follows:

(C) a vessel registered to take Pacific cod may not be longer than 58' in overall length

except in the area around Unalaska Bay where a vessel registered to take Pacific cod may not be longer than 55' between Priest rock 166.22 and Bishop pt. 166.57

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Small boats using longline gear to fish for cod in and around Unalaska Bay are being displaced by larger boats (58') using pots.

All small boats (less than 55'), whether local or from other communities in our State, who deliver into Unalaska, fish within 15 miles from town. They have no where else to go. When the larger 58' boats using pots move in, the smaller vessels using longline gear are displaced and have no option but to quit fishing. We feel that the larger 58' boats do have other options. Preservation of the small fishing vessel culture is one of the cornerstones of the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association's mission statement which is, "To create and preserve opportunities for the subsistence and and small boat commercial fishermen of Unalaska Bay, recognizing the natural environment as the essential component to both".

We believe that in order for our small boat heritage and culture to survive, certain protections must be put in place. In order to nurture and encourage entry level participation into the cod fishery, we must provide access to the resource.

A look at Unalaska's history going back many, many years shows that all local boat owners got started with a boat 50' or less..

PROPOSED BY: Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association (EF-F22-089)
