

# Buck CAUKITIS

RC 029

Combine Proposals 14, 15, 16 for AREA O COD

## ELEMENTS:

1.) Factor the GHL from the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) from the Bering Sea. Current GHL for Area O is 3% of BSAI = 3.2% of Bering Sea; 6% of BSAI = 6.4% of BS; 9% of BSAI = 9.6% of BS.

2.) **5 AAC 28.648.** Expand the geographical area of the fishery ~~to the~~ west to the 170 degree west line. Maintain current Stellar Sea Lion "No Transit" closures. Maintain the current Stellar Sea Lion closures EXCEPT open the state waters portion of the Bogoslof Conservation Area and the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area for cod fishing during the state water GHL fishery. Only under 58 foot vessels LOA (not including anchor rollers and by the CFEC definition of length) utilizing less than 60 pots or less than 5 jigging machines in the state water GHL fishery will be allowed to fish. (This does not change the exemption for under 60 foot hook and line and jiggers to also catch 113 mt of pacific cod in this area allowed in federal regulations.)

A GHL jig fishery in the state water portion of the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area will be 100,000 pounds subtracted from the total GHL. (The jiggers want this GHL available later in the summer. In normal years the pot cod GHL will already have been taken, so they need a separate GHL.)

Justification: The original proposal for the Area O fishery was for state waters of Alaska in the entire Bering Sea. The Board chose to form the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict in the area where high catches occur. The new area to the west is also productive and offers more protected waters to both safely fish and find shelter.

3.) **5 AAC 28.648(e)(1)** Stair Step the GHL allocation:

Currently 3.2% of Bering Sea ABC

New GHL 6.4% of BS ABC

If in any year 90% of the GHL is harvested, then increase the GHL the following year to 9.6% of the BS ABC.

Justification:

\*Similar to the formation of the state water cod GHL fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska in 1996, the stair step approach allows fleets to adjust.

\*The state manages state resources for the benefit of Alaskan residents.

"...use and development of these resources are in the best interest of the economy and well-being of the people of the state." From the ADFG Mission Statement

Approximately 85% of the fishermen using under 60 foot pot cod permits and vessels are Alaskan residents. The GHL pot cod fisheries have developed over 50 participants in Area M, over 20 in Chignik, over 50 in Kodiak, and over 13 in Cook Inlet. The Area O fishery needs the area and the allocation to support development of the fishery.