

PROPOSAL 21 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan. Update state-waters Pacific cod management plans of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands with current federal references for Steller sea lion protection, as follows:

5 AAC 28.647(g)(3) is amended to read:

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

(g) The following closures apply during a state-waters season:

...

(3) all Steller sea lion protection measures for Pacific cod found in Table 5 of 50 C.F.R. 679, as defined in **79 Federal Register 70286, November 25, 2014** [69 FEDERAL REGISTER 75865, DECEMBER 20, 2004];

5 AAC 28.648(l) is amended to read:

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

(l) The federal fishery management measures for the protection of Steller sea lions are imposed as specified in Table 5 **to 50 C.F.R. 679, as defined in 79 Federal Register 70286, November 25, 2014** and Table 12 to 50 C.F.R., Part 679, revised as of January 1, 2011, as defined in 75 Federal Register 81921, December 29, 2010.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulations for Steller sea lion restrictions during the Aleutian Islands District and Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod seasons are adopted by reference to federal registers. In 2014, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implemented revised Steller sea lion restrictions during federal seasons that match those in place during state-waters seasons. Adopting references to current federal Steller sea lion closures would reduce confusion without modifying closed areas applicable to state-waters seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-051)
