

PROPOSAL 14 – 5 AAC 28.647. Aleutian Islands District Pacific Cod Management Plan; and 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan. Calculate guideline harvest levels for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands state-waters Pacific cod fisheries based on federal acceptable biological catch for subareas of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area, as follows:

The introductory language of 5 AAC 28.647(d)(1) is amended to read:

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

(d) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands District west of 170° W. long. is **XX** [THREE] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal [BERING SEA AND] Aleutian Islands **subarea** [AREA]; the guideline harvest level will be available for harvest as follows:

...

5 AAC 28.648(e)(1) is amended to read:

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

(e) During a state-waters season,

(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is **XX** [THREE] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea **subarea** [AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the Aleutian Islands District and Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest levels (GHL) are based on a percentage of the combined federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod acceptable biological catch (ABC). In 2014, to address genetic differences in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod stocks and concerns about the declining Aleutian Islands population, the Science and Statistical Committee recommended, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted, separate ABCs for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea subarea and the Aleutian Islands subarea. State-waters management plans for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod could be updated to calculate the GHLs based on the federal ABC of each subarea. The Aleutian Islands subarea ABC is much smaller than the Bering Sea subarea ABC and if the Aleutian Islands subarea ABC continues to decline, the current method for calculating the GHL could exceed the subarea ABC. The department has not specified an equivalent GHL percentage of federal subarea ABC because only two years (2014 and 2015) of subarea ABCs are available. The Aleutian Islands District GHL was 53.7% of the 2014 Aleutian Islands subarea ABC and 46.5% of the 2015 subarea ABC. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict was 3.18% of the 2014 Bering Sea subarea ABC and 3.2% of the 2015 subarea ABC. The 2016 federal subarea ABCs should be available for the 2016 board meeting and that information along with historic GHLs and fishery harvest information could be utilized to inform this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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