

PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 28.648. Dutch Harbor Subdistrict Pacific Cod Management Plan.

Expand the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod fishery boundaries and increase the state-waters fishery guideline harvest level from three percent to nine percent of the federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands acceptable biological catch, as follows:

Increase the size of Dutch Harbor Subdistrict to include the state-waters of the Bering Sea from the present line at 164 degrees west to the state-waters of the Aleutian Islands at the 170 degrees west line. The new area would prohibit fishing in the state-waters around Bogoslof Island and two other three mile Steller sea lion no transit zones in the new portion of the area.

The guideline harvest level for the new Dutch Harbor Subdistrict would increase from three percent (of the old subdistrict) to nine percent (for the new subdistrict) of the Federal estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Bering Sea Aleutian Islands area.

Vessels participating in the state water Pacific cod fishery would continue to be 58 feet and under vessels (not including anchor rollers) using 60 pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Expand the area and increase the allocation for the state water Pacific cod pot fishery in the Dutch Harbor Subdistrict to provide opportunity for small boats. State water fisheries have become very important fisheries for state residents. There is very low bycatch of halibut in the pot fishery.

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