

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 28.263. Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan.

Close the Prince William Sound walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

Add a new section to 5 AAC 28.263. PWS Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan.

- x) A direct Alaska pollock Pelagic trawl fishery in PWS is prohibited unless;
 - 1) No part or attachment to the Pelagic trawl gear makes contact with the seafloor habitat.
 - 2) There is no bycatch of Chinook salmon in the PWS Pollock Pelagic trawl fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the precipitous rise in Chinook salmon bycatch in PWS taken by the Pollock Pelagic Trawl fishery and reduce disturbances to the seafloor caused by trawling. Numerous Alaskans living in Interior and SouthCentral Alaska gather chinook salmon as part of their annual wildfood source from PWS, Protecting the habitat upon which our wildfood source depends has been the Alaska Outdoor Council's top purpose for decades.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed through the Alaska Outdoor Council member clubs who depend on wildfood stocks from PWS as part of their annual wildfood source.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EF-F24-106)

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 28.263 Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan

Modify bycatch limits in the Prince William Sound pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

- (d) During a directed walleye pollock pelagic trawl fishery, the total bycatch weight of all species combined may not exceed **an amount set by ADFG of xxx lbs** [FIVE PERCENT] **regardless** of the total round weight of the walleye pollock harvested.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current bycatch limits are set not to exceed five percent of the total round weight of the harvest. By putting a bycatch cap in regulations, it will make it so the bycatch amount doesn't increase if the GHF increases. This will help greatly in reducing bycatch. Additionally, it should be mandatory that bycatch is brought back to port and surrendered to ADFG.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: The Chenega IRA Council (HQ-F24-123)

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 28.263 Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan

Close the Prince William Sound pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

Closure of the Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery to preserve PWS.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It is our belief that the Prince William Sound (PWS) Walleye Pollock Trawl Fishery is causing significant damage to the ecosystem in PWS and should be closed.

There is sufficient evidence of this by looking at the bycatch species they are harvesting. After discussions with local ADFG staff, it's been determined that the rockfish bycatch is predominantly shortraker rockfish. Shortraker rockfish are a deepwater fish living in depths typically greater than 800' and are considered bottomfish. While the PWS Walleye Pollock Trawl Fishery is supposed to be a midwater trawl fishery, evidence suggests they are dragging the bottom based on their bycatch. Repeated years of dragging the bottom causes serious damage by destroying the natural seafloor habitat and disrupting the ecosystem.

PWS holds many resources utilized by several user groups and it is in the best interest of all user groups to preserve the waters for current and future generations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed in conjunction with The Chenega Corporation, Raymond Nix, and information obtained from ADFG.

PROPOSED BY: The Chenega IRA Council (HQ-F24-124)

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 28.263 Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Pelagic Trawl Fishery Management Plan

Establish observer requirements in the Prince William Sound pelagic trawl fishery, as follows:

(h) The commissioner **shall** [MAY] require **100% onboard electronic observation and 50% physical** onboard observers on a vessel during fishing operations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prince William Sound Walleye Pollock Trawl fishery is the only trawl fishery in the state with 0% observer coverage and is relying solely on the user group for accurate reporting. By requiring electronic and physical observation, this will allow verification of bycatch amounts and prevent over-fishing.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed in conjunction with The Chenega Corporation and ADFG for information.

PROPOSED BY: The Chenega IRA Council

(HQ-F24-125)

PROPOSAL 18

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area.

Extend the season dates in the Prince William Sound sablefish fishery, as follows:

Extend the fishery closer from August 31st through the end of October.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like the board to consider extending the fishing period for the Prince William Sound Sablefish fishery through October.

This would enable permit holders more opportunity to fish their quota and potentially afford greater market flexibility.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I consulted with the current ADFG management biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Brad von Wichman

(EF-F24-086)

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 28.210. Fishing seasons for Prince William Sound Area. 5 AAC 28.206. Prince William Sound Area registration. 5 AAC 28.272. Sablefish harvest, possession, and landing requirements for Prince William Sound Area.

Modify the commercial fishing season for sablefish in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 28.210 to read:

(b) Sablefish may be taken in the Inside District **during the “A” Season** from april 15 through august 31 **and during the “B” season from September 15th - December 31st**. There is no open season for commercial sablefish fishing in the Outside District.

Amend 5 AAC 28.206 to read:

(c) In the Inside District, a Prince William Sound CFEC sablefish permit holder, or The permit holder's agent must register for the commercial sablefish fishery before 5:00 p.m. April 1st. **Registration for “B” season will open September 1st and close September 7th at 5:00 pm.**

Amend 5 AAC 28.272 to read

(c) In the Prince William Sound Area, the holder of a CFEC limited entry permit or interim-use permit to take sablefish may not take more than the [ANNUAL] **seasonal** amount specified by the department. The department will determine the [ANNUAL] **seasonal** amount as follows:

(1) the [ANNUAL] **“A” season** amount will be the sum of one-half of the annual harvest objective divided by the number of permit holders registered to fish in the commercial sablefish **“A” Season** fishery and one-half of the annual harvest objective multiplied by the average percentage of the harvest taken by the vessel category for which the CFEC permit was issued, as specified in 20 AAC 05.779, and divided by the number of permit holders registered to fish sablefish with the permits of that vessel category;

(2) the **“B” Season** amount will be the sum of one-half of the remaining annual harvest objective unharvested during the **“A” Season** divided by the number of permit holders registered to fish in the commercial sablefish **“B” Season** fishery and one-half of the annual