

PROPOSAL 218

5 AAC 28.106. Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area registration.

Establish registration requirements for the Pacific cod directed fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.106 (a) is amended to read:

(a) The Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area is a nonexclusive registration area for Pacific cod[.] **and notwithstanding 5 AAC 28.020(a), before a person uses a vessel to operate gear to take Pacific cod in a directed Pacific cod fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, the vessel owner or the owner's agent shall register the vessel with the department by completing a registration form with the vessel's name, management areas the vessel will be fishing in, contact number, and the signature of the owner or owner's agent.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulatory language does not require directed Pacific cod fishermen to register their vessel prior to fishing. If vessels were required to register, it would help ensure successful management of the fishery by providing an accurate number of vessels fishing and their intentions for delivery. This would assist with scheduling staff for port sampling landings to collect biological information such as length, weight, sex, and age that is used to inform stock health and resulting management decisions. Without registrations, the department does not have a full accounting of vessels participating in the fishery prior to landings, and this can result in either underharvest or overharvest within a management area. Requiring registrations for the directed Pacific cod fishery will also create consistency among directed groundfish fishery requirements, which include requiring vessel registrations for each fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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