

**PROPOSAL 219**

**5 AAC 28.130. Lawful gear for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.**

Clarify lawful gear for rockfish retention, as follows:

5 AAC 28.130 (d) is amended to read:

(d) In the Southeast District,

(1) [EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ROCKFISH AND] lingcod may be taken only by longline, dinglebar troll gear, power troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines, except that

[**(A) IN A DIRECTED FISHERY FOR PELAGIC SHELF ROCKFISH, PELAGIC SHELF ROCKFISH MAY BE TAKEN ONLY BY DINGLEBAR TROLL GEAR, HAND TROLL GEAR, AND MECHANICAL JIGGING MACHINES;**] **repealed.**

**(B) in a directed fishery for lingcod, lingcod may be taken only by dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines;**

...

(3) Pacific cod, **rockfish**, and thornyhead rockfish may be taken only by longline, dinglebar troll gear, power troll gear, hand troll gear, mechanical jigging machines, and pots[;], **except that**

**(A) in a directed fishery for pelagic shelf rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish may be taken only by dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines;**

**(B) in a directed fishery for demersal shelf rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish may be taken only by longline, dinglebar troll gear, hand troll gear, and mechanical jigging machines**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations do not allow for retention of rockfish species by pot gear. Because most hook and line, pot, and jig vessels are unobserved, full retention and reporting are necessary to account for total mortality of rockfish and to improve management of rockfish. Allowing retention of all rockfish in pot gear, as specified above, will provide the department with better catch information and reduce wastage, which occurs when rockfish are discarded at sea.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-156)

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