

Submitted by Board Member John Jensen, prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Gameⁱ.

January 16, 2023

Substitute language for proposal 171-172:

5 AAC 28.230(c)-(d) is amended to read:

5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area.

(c) A groundfish pot may [NOT] be attached to a line connected to another groundfish pot. **Groundfish** [, EXCEPT THAT IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SABLEFISH FISHERY GROUND FISH] pots may be connected if each end of the buoy line is marked as specified in (d) of this section.

(d) **Groundfish pots must have the following:**

(1) at [At] least one buoy on each groundfish pot must be legibly marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of the vessel operating the gear. The buoy may bear only **the** [A SINGLE] number [- THAT] of the vessel operating the gear. The number must be placed on the top **one-half** [ONE-THIRD] of the buoy in numerals at least four inches high, one-half inch wide, and in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy. The buoy markings must be visible on the buoy above the water surface when the buoy is attached to the groundfish pot;[.]

(2) each end of a groundfish pot longline must have a buoy attached and each buoy must be marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel plate number of the vessel operating the groundfish longlined pot gear; the buoy must have the letters LP to designate the gear as longlined groundfish pot gear and the buoy may bear only the number of the vessel operating the gear. The numbers and letters must be marked on the top one-half of the buoy in numbers and letters that are at least four inches high, one-half inch wide, and in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy; the buoy markings must be visible on the buoy above the water's surface when the buoy is attached to the longlined pot gear; for the purposes of this subsection, "longlined" means more than one groundfish pot is attached to a stationary, buoyed, and anchored line.

ⁱ Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.