

PROPOSAL 172 (formerly ACR 9) – 5 AAC 28.230. Lawful gear for Prince William Sound Area. Adopt gear marking requirements for longlined pot gear in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

5 AAC 28.230(d) is amended to read:

(d) 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 a single number - that of the vessel operating the gear. The number must be placed on the top 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. **Each end of a set of longline pot gear must have attached a cluster of four or more marker buoys, a flag mounted on a pole, and a radar reflector. One hard buoy in the buoy cluster must be marked with the capital letters “LP” in addition to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game vessel registration number.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations do not include marking requirements specifically for longlined pots. This can lead to participant confusion on the grounds if longlined pots are not marked differently from traditional single pot, or from hook and line longline gear. Smaller vessels cannot always haul a larger, heavier pot string, and proper marking can help participants avoid setting too close and tangling with longlined pot strings.

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