

**COMMERCIAL, SUBSISTENCE, SPORT, PERSONAL USE
GROUNDFISH (21 proposals)**

General Groundfish

PROPOSAL 191

5 AAC 28.175. Logbooks for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

Amend logbook requirements for vessels fishing for groundfish with pot and longline gear, as follows:

5 AAC 28.175 (b) is amended to read:

(b) A logbook described in (a) of this section

(1) for longline **and pot** gear must include **permit holder name, vessel information, trip target species, port of landing, date left port, date of landing, crew size, bait used, and gear specifications. Additionally for each [BY] set, the set target species, the date and time the set was deployed and hauled,** the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, in degrees and decimal minutes, for start and ending positions, the amount of gear (number of hooks, **skates, or pots**) used, **the amount of gear lost (number of skates or pots lost),** the depth of each set, the **number or** estimated weight, **in round pounds,** of all target species **retained and released at sea,** [TAKEN,] **the number or** [AN] estimated weight, **in round pounds,** of the bycatch retained or discarded at sea, [AND] the tag number of any tagged fish **captured, if gear is impacted by depredation, the amount of gear (number of skates or pots impacted) must be recorded, and any other information that the commissioner determines necessary** [LANDED]; [FOR THE NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE SUBDISTRICT AND THE SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE SUBDISTRICT SABLEFISH FISHERIES, A LOGBOOK MUST INCLUDE A RECORD OF THE ROUND WEIGHT DELIVERED, THE PURCHASING PROCESSOR, AND DATE OF EACH DELIVERY DURING THAT SEASON IF MULTIPLE LANDINGS HAVE BEEN MADE;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current logbook regulations do not include all the information that is necessary for management and stock assessment. Logbooks provided to fishery participants contain some fields that are not specified in regulation. Also, with the increased use of pots in groundfish fisheries, logbooks need to be specific to fishing gear; to do this the department needs to distribute gear specific logbooks. During inseason management, staff are forced to delay important decisions while waiting for fishers' clarification regarding missing logbook information. This proposal will shorten the amount of time staff spend processing logbook data, increase the accuracy of logbook information, and create consistency of reporting between gear types.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-143)

PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 77.674 Personal use bottomfish fishery.

Allow pots used in the personal use bottomfish fishery to be longlined.

5 AAC 77.674. Personal use bottomfish fishery

Section (6 - E - ii)

ii) may be longlined

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Single pots are a lot of work for what can be a minimal return. We propose being able to longline pots. The remainder of the current regulations would still apply -- namely the 200 fish limit per boat and the portion reading "may not exceed more than 2 pots per permit holder or eight pots per vessel when four or more permit holders are present." Each pot that is added to a longline potentially removes 1,800' or more of ground line and a buoy from the water, reducing the impacts of lost gear, bycatch, and the chance of marine mammal entanglement.

It is our understanding that the author of the original proposal to allow black cod pots intended for the regulation to allow for longlining -- hence the "2 pots per permit holder or eight pots per vessel when four or more permit holders are present". It doesn't make sense that a personal use vessel would have eight shots of +1800' of line, but it does make sense that they might have 8 collapsible pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This is a joint proposal submitted by Territorial Sportsmen Inc of Juneau and the Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc / Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-100)

PROPOSAL 193

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements of Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area.

In state waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, allow CFEC permit holders fishing for groundfish or halibut with mechanical jig and hand troll gear to use a deepwater release mechanism to return rockfish to the ocean, as follows:

5 AAC 28.171. Rockfish possession and landing requirements for Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area

(a) In the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area, a CFEC permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish and thornyhead rockfish caught. Except as provided in (b) of this section, all demersal shelf rockfish in excess of 10 percent, round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All rockfish and thornyhead rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish and thornyhead rockfish bycatch shall be surrendered to the state. Based on harvest data, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season or a bycatch season and immediately reopen a fishing season or a bycatch season during which a different rockfish or thornyhead rockfish bycatch level is allowed.

(1) Except that, in directed Mechanical Jig and Hand Troll fisheries, rockfish may be released using an approved deepwater release mechanism.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the retention of all rockfish is mandated in all commercial groundfish fisheries. This is due to the high prevalence of barotrauma and subsequent low survival rates in released rockfish. In recent years, the department has done a lot of work with deepwater release mechanisms to improve survivability of released rockfish in the sport fisheries, and those devices are now required for all participants in the

saltwater sport fishery. In most commercial fisheries, these deepwater release mechanisms are not feasible, however I believe that in directed jig fisheries they could be incorporated fairly easily. Jig fisheries are not that different then the sport fishery in prosecution and each fish is handled individually and it would be fairly straightforward to have release mechanisms in place on your jigging machines, which you could easily use to release rockfish on your next drop of your gear. Having the option to release rockfish in this manner would have all the same benefits that it does in the sport fishery. The ability to release long-lived but low-value non-pelagic rockfish, rockfish species that the department wanted to protect, or in the case of Prince William Sound all rockfish while jigging for other species; would have clear conservation and management benefits.

I would like to see this put into regulation statewide, but I am aware that might not be possible during this Board cycle. I personally have only fished jig fisheries in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet waters and will submit equivalent proposals in those areas and Statewide Finfish, but am submitting this proposal to the Southeast meeting with the hope that it may foster some discussion and be considered. I am aware that jigging in SE Alaska is more likely to be done on a somewhat larger scale and that it is possible that fishermen consider deepwater release to be less feasible then it is in the regions and fisheries that I am more familiar with. It is worth noting that I am not suggesting mandatory release, only that it be a legal option available to fishermen.

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

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person

(EF-F24-069)
