

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON FISHERY RESOURCE, GEAR, AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA CODES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE ALASKA
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission proposes to change regulations by adding new fishery, gear and administrative area codes.

The Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (commission) proposes to adopt regulation changes in 20 AAC 05 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with adding new fishery resource, gear, and administrative area codes, including the following:

- (1) 20 AAC 05.210. Fishery resource codes, is proposed to be changed by adding fishery species codes for Arctic lamprey and Pacific cod. Currently neither are in regulation. There is a small developing lamprey fishery in Western Alaska that is currently permitted as a miscellaneous freshwater species. There are Pacific cod fisheries currently permitted as “miscellaneous saltwater finfish.” These changes will help with data integrity, and in the case of Pacific cod, improve the commission’s ability to respond to petitions to limit a fishery.
- (2) 20 AAC 05.220. Gear codes, is proposed to be changed by allowing the use of a dipnet under a set gillnet permit in the Cook Inlet and Yukon set gillnet fisheries as authorized by the Board of Fisheries, adding a new pot gear code specifically for registered vessel length under 35 feet, and adding new individual gear codes for fyke net and dipnet. There is interest in creating a new permit category for smaller boats in the Pacific cod pot fishery to possibly make the cost of entry more reasonable. Fyke nets are used in the Western Alaska lamprey fishery, which is currently coded to set gillnet gear. Dip nets are becoming assigned more frequently by the Board of Fisheries as commercial fishing gear.
- (3) 20 AAC 05.230. Administrative areas, is proposed to be changed by adding areas for Pacific cod fisheries. These fisheries are defined in Board of Fisheries regulations. The commission permits these fisheries under on “statewide” delineation. The commission has received petitions to limit participation in certain Pacific cod regions, but cannot analyze these fisheries without more defined administrative areas.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission at P.O. Box 110302, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302. Additionally, the commission will accept comments by facsimile at 907-789-6170, and by electronic mail at DFG.CFEC.PublicQuestions@alaska.gov. Comments may also be submitted through the Alaska Online Public Notice System, by accessing this notice on the system and using the comment link. The comments must be received not later than 5:00pm on June 13, 2024.

You may submit written questions relevant to the proposed action to Glenn Haight, Commissioner with the commission through e-mail at DFG.CFEC.PublicQuestions@alaska.gov or mail at P.O. Box 110302, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0302. The questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period. The commission will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and the commission's website at <https://www.cfec.state.ak.us>.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Glenn Haight at glenn.haight@alaska.gov or 907-790-6942, not later than June 3, 2024 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and by contacting Glenn Haight at glenn.haight@alaska.gov or 907-790-6942.

A copy of material proposed for adoption by reference is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System or through https://www.cfec.state.ak.us/mnu_Regulations.htm.

After the public comment period ends, the commission will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulation may be different from that of the proposed regulation. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected.

Statutory authority: AS 16.43.100; AS 16.43.110; AS 16.43.140; AS 16.43.200; AS 16.43.990.

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 16.43.100; AS 16.43.110; AS 16.43.140; AS 16.43.200; AS 16.43.990.

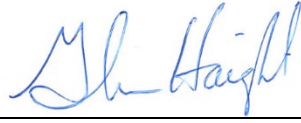
Fiscal information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Under the Open Meetings Act (AS 44.62.310), the Commission will conduct a public meeting in the Commission's Conference Room, 8800 Glacier Highway, Suite 109, Juneau, Alaska, on June 25, 2024, at 10:00am to consider action upon the proposed regulations. You can contact Glenn Haight for a copy of the agenda on the Friday before the scheduled meeting. The agenda will include a videoconference link and listen-in only phone number. No public testimony will be accepted at this meeting.

The commission keeps a list of individuals and organizations interested in its regulations. Those on the list will automatically be sent a copy of all of the commission notices of proposed regulation changes. To be added to or removed from the list, send a request to the commission at glenn.haight@alaska.gov, giving your name, and either your e-mail address or mailing address, as you prefer for receiving notices.

Individuals can also sign up to receive automated notifications of all State of Alaska notices, including public notice for regulation changes, by subscribing to the Alaska Online Public Notices System: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Default.aspx>.

Date: May 13, 2024



Glenn Haight, Commissioner