

**PROPOSAL 210**

**5 AAC 38.420. Fishing seasons for scallops in Registration Area J.**

Establish fishing season for scallops in the Southeast District of Registration Area K, as follows:

(b) In Scallop Registration Area K (Kodiak), a person may take weathervane scallops only

(1) under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner under 5 AAC 38.076(e) ; and

(2) in those waters of the Southeast District described in 5 AAC 34.405(b) Southeast District: all waters southwest of a line extending 168°, from the easternmost tip of Cape Barnabas and east of a line extending 222°, from the southernmost tip of Cape Trinity. And south of the three nautical mile line.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Kodiak area was closed to Scalloping in the early 1970’s, due to concern over unknown crab bycatch amounts in the region.

Since 1993 Scallopers have been required at their own cost to carry observers 100% of the time. These observers mission is to tally all targeted catch and all discarded bycatch. This information is reported to ADF&G. Scallop fishermen with the tools of 100% observer coverage, bycatch caps and fishermen’s cooperation has allowed them to fish successfully in many regions around the State. Using data from the observers, ADF&G and the Scallop Association are able to compile information on where potential crab “hot spots” are and have fishermen avoid them. Using this bycatch observer monitoring system, at great cost to scallop fishermen, has been an excellent tool to keep Scallopers below ADF&G set bycatch crab limits.

Scallopers used to fish here in the 60’s and early 70’s. Since then ADF&G surveys and NOAA race Groundfish surveys continue to record seeing Weathervane scallops in this district. Now that we have proven tools to keep our bycatch responsible and manageable, we would like to see SE Kodiak re-opened to Scallop fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Scallop Association

(HQ-F17-024)

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