

**PROPOSAL 211**

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

Reduce closed waters for scallops in the Southwest 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 Southwest District described in 5 AAC 34.405(c) that are south of a line from Cape Ikolik at 57° 17.40' N. lat., 154° 47.40' W. long. to the Alaska Peninsula (near Kilokak Rocks) at 57° 10.34' N. lat., 156° 20.22' W. long., and ~~west of 155° 00.00' W. long.,~~ northwest of a line from 56° 07.00' N. lat., 154° 37.00' W. long. to Low Point at 57° 00' N. lat., 154° 31.50' W. long. and north of 56° 07.00' N. lat. and east of 156° 20.22' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In March 2009 the Board of Fish re-opened a limited area in SW Kodiak to scallop fishing. Since 2009 this has been a good scallop fishing area, including right up to the existing eastern border at 155° 00' W. long. This proposal intends to extend this fishing area further to the northeast where known scallop beds are. From about 56° 54' N lat., 155° 00' to Bumble Bay on Kodiak.

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, until it was closed due to concern over unknown crab bycatch amounts in the region. Now that we have proven tools to keep our bycatch responsible and manageable, we would like to see this northern portion of SW Kodiak re-opened to Scallop fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Scallop Association

(HQ-F17-025)

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