

PROPOSAL 229

5 AAC 34.612. Harvest levels for golden king crab in Registration Area O.

Repeal fixed total allowable catch (TAC) and adopt an Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest strategy that uses biomass estimates generated from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game stock assessment model to establish TAC, as follows:

Detailed description of the draft harvest strategy will be provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) prior to the March 2018 Statewide Dungeness crab, Shrimp, and other Miscellaneous Shellfish meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest strategy employs a fixed TAC that may be reduced based on fishery performance and other relative abundance indices, as needed to ensure the stock is managed sustainably. Over the past several years the department has developed a stock assessment model for Aleutian Islands golden king crab that provides annual estimates of biomass and harvestable surplus. This model has undergone extensive review by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Crab Plan Team and Science and Statistical Committee as well as members of the fishing industry and the department believes it is appropriate to begin using the model to set TAC. Adoption of a harvest strategy based on annual estimates of abundance will reduce uncertainty in the TAC setting process and ensure harvest levels are set sustainably.

PROPOSED BY: Aleutian King Crab Research Foundation
