

## PROPOSAL 53

**5 AAC 32.126. Dungeness crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 35.126. Tanner crab gear marking requirements for Registration Area A.**

Clarify regulations related to the sale of buoy tags to commercial Dungeness crab fishery permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 32.126(b) is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The **permit holder**, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags. Replacement of lost tags during a season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] submits a sworn statement or affidavit describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags. Tags shall be renewed annually at the time of registration before each fishing season.

5 AAC 34.126 is amended to read:

**(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.051(c), identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued to the permit holder at the time of vessel registration. The permit holder, or the permit holder's agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags.** [IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 5 AAC 34.051, IN REGISTRATION AREA A, REPLACEMENT] **Replacement** of [IDENTIFICATION] **lost** tags [LOST] during the season is permitted if the [VESSEL OPERATOR] **permit holder** and at least one crewmember submit sworn statements or affidavits, in person, at a department office in Registration Area A, describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags.

**(b) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the golden king crab and Tanner crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.**

5 AAC 35.126 is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The permit holder, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue the tags. Replacement of tags lost during the season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] and at least one crewmember submit sworn statements or affidavits, in person, at **a** [THE] department office **in Registration Area A**, [THAT ISSUED THE TAGS] describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags [TAGS SHALL BE RENEWED ANNUALLY BEFORE EACH FISHING SEASON].

(c) Each Tanner crab ring net must have an identification tag, as specified in (a) of this section.

**(d) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The department has maintained a procedure of selling and associating buoy tags to a permit holder, and not to a specific vessel or CFEC permit card. This allows permit holders to switch vessels mid-season and keep their purchased tags, and also allows permit holders in the Dungeness crab fishery to switch permits and keep some or all of their purchased tags.

Issuing buoy tags to a specific vessel or a specific CFEC permit card creates logistical problems for enforcement and crab management staff, so the exception to issue buoy tags to a specific vessel in cases when multiple CFEC permit holders register a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries would allow the department to use the same approach it uses now for a single individual registering for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries with a single permit that allows the privilege to fish for both species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-104)

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**PROPOSAL 54**

**5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.**

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 240 pots, as follows:

(a) In Registration area A, no more than 240 Dungeness Crab Pots may be operated from a single vessel to take Dungeness crab under any circumstances. A person may not operate more pots than allowed under the terms of that persons CFEC permit. If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel the maximum number of pots that may be operated from that vessel is the aggregate of the number of pots allowed under the registered permit holder permits, except that the number of pots operated on board that vessel may not exceed 240 pots.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To reduce the number of Dungeness Crab pots that a single vessel can operate. This proposal will reduce the number of Dungeness Crab pots on the fishing grounds from a possible 42450 pots to 33960 pots. Due to sea otter predation the Dungeness fishing grounds have become over saturated with gear, this proposal if adopted would take some of the pressure off the grounds and allow fisherman to more effectively operate their gear.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ryan Littleton (EF-F17-005)

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**PROPOSAL 55**

**5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.**

Increase the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 400 pots, as follows:

(a) In Registration Area A, no more than **400** Dungeness crab pots may be operated from a single vessel to take Dungeness crab under any circumstances. A person may not operate more pots than allowed under the terms of that persons CFEC permit. **If additional CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel, each additional permit will be allowed to operate one third of the terms of the additional persons CFEC permit aboard that vessel.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the Area A Dungeness crab fishery there is too many commercial crab pots fishing. Due to the increased efficiency of the fleet, there is shorter soak times which do not allow non-legal crab to leave the pot through the escape rings.

This proposal would increase the number of crab pots per vessel to 400. This will increase soak times allowing non-legal crab time to escape the pot. This proposal would only give one third of the value of the terms of a stacked permit. This will remove a significant number of pots out of the water for the whole fleet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Derek Thynes (EF-F17-114)  
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**PROPOSAL 56**

**5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.**

Close waters of Twelvemile Arm to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

(11) waters of Twelve-mile Arm west of a line **at 55°31.262'N lat., 132°34.141'W long, to 55°30.170'N lat., 132°33.731'W long., and north and east of a line at 55°26.410'N lat., 132°40.050'W long., to 55°26.333'N lat., 132°39.529'W long.;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Prince of Wales Island have continued to see an increased presence of commercial Dungeness crab fisherman in 12-mile arm. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet has seen an increased in sea otters in other areas of Southeast Alaska and very low numbers of Dungeness crab in those areas. The area of Hollis has seen an increase of personal use Dungeness crab fisherman from the communities on the western shore of Prince of Wales. The fisherman of Hollis continues to see lower numbers of crab from the increase of all users. A small increase to the area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially will continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by personal use fisherman to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet would not be impacted by this small increase to the existing closed fishing area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Hollis Community Council Inc. (EF-F17-022)  
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**PROPOSAL 57**

**5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**

Close waters in the Klawock vicinity to sport fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen will be prohibited: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55°34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; at 55°30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55°22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55°34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; 55°30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55°22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

- Reasoning: economic; Charter businesses have been utilizing these areas to gather crab for profit by supplementing their businesses and decreasing the biomass for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island. Klawock and the surrounding communities have a large subsistence population that relies heavily on subsistence resources.
- Excessive pressure by charter businesses and sea otter population is depleting the resource
- A regulation closure of these specific areas to charter businesses would allow for the sustainability of the species for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island and increase biomass of the species.
- The number of Charter businesses in Craig and Klawock is approximately 150 registered charter vessels multiplied by 4 people @ 5 crab per person per boat = 3000 crab per day that can be taken by Charter businesses
- Economics – charters can afford to buy gas and go beyond these immediate areas surrounding the community of Klawock
- The subsistence users in Klawock have only the bare necessities (18 foot Lund, 40 hp motor at best) to gather subsistence foods. Whereas the Charter businesses have top of the line gear (24 foot North River with twin 150 hp to 300 hp motors)
- In Klawock 73 % of households are at or below the federal and state poverty level and depend on local harvesting to sustain their households
- Klawock population is over half Native and is losing Traditional gathering areas to out of State business owners i.e.; charter businesses
- A majority of Prince of Wales Island communities are economically depressed with high rates of unemployment and other government assistance programs
- High cost of living on Prince of Wales Island
- This area has never been closed to sport fishing (charter businesses) help increase the biomass of Crab
- Depleted areas include all listed; Shinaku Inlet has been completely decimated from over harvesting to include human and marine mammals

- Oral histories have proven factual that these areas have been customary, traditional harvesting areas for the local Tlingit and Haida tribes since time immemorial, since then the population as a whole includes both Native and non-Native that rely on the subsistence lifestyle to sustain their households throughout the year
- There is not a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) in place to better manage local resources for the subsistence user

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom & Brenda Leask, Byron Vaughn Skinna Jr. (EF-F17-104)

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**PROPOSAL 58**

**5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**

Close waters in the Klawock vicinity to sport fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness crabs by chartered sport fishing boats should be prohibited at least in the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The Klawock Cooperative Association, Tribe cannot speak for other parts of Southeast, Alaska but perhaps the Alaska Board of Fisheries should consider the impact of charter boat harvests of Dungeness crab elsewhere too.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The taking of Dungeness crab by sport fishermen in the areas adjacent to Craig and Klawock is decimating a resource that has traditionally been used for subsistence purposes.

Why it needs to be addressed: Approximately 150 charter boats are licensed to sport fish the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The target fish are salmon and halibut, with bottom fish also taken. But charter operators add a bonus. They set crab pots that they pull up on the way back from a fish run, and the charter fishers are treated to the freshest possible crab dinners. Unlike the subsistence harvesters who fish crab periodically for their families (they don't eat crab every day), charter operators have a steady stream of new clients almost daily throughout their season, so they can leave their crab pots, freshly baited daily, to fish without a break throughout their entire season. A little math shows that they can take thousands of Dungeness crab per day. Title IX of ANILCA provides that rural Alaskans are to be given priority in the use of subsistence foods whenever the viability of the resource is threatened. Subsistence users of Dungeness crabs in the areas mentioned have seen a reduction in the resource. A finite subsistence resource is being diminished by a fishery that is, in effect, an add-on luxury for sports fishers, but a serious threat to subsistence users.

**PROPOSED BY:** Klawock Tribe (EF-F17-108)

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**PROPOSAL 59**

**5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**

Close the Yakutat Area Dungeness crab sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(b) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(b) in the Yakutat vicinity;

**(4) in all waters between the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.) and a line running southwest from the western most tip of Cape Fairweather at 58° 47.89' N. lat. and 137° 56.68' W. long., sport fishing for Dungeness crab is closed.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Surveys conducted by the department indicate that the Dungeness crab stock in the Yakutat Area has not rebuilt following the closure of the commercial fishery in 2000. Surveys conducted in 2004, 2012, and 2013 indicate the population has not recovered. The Dungeness crab sport fishery in the Yakutat vicinity has been closed each year since 2005 by emergency order.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-128)

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**PROPOSAL 60**

**5 AAC 47.xxx. New section.**

Establish a guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery in Sitka Sound, as follows:

I would like to be able to take clients on eco tours in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area. On these tours I would like to pull pre set crab pots and or rings, for viewing purposes only.

I do not intend to retain anything so I would like to save my clients money and save them from purchasing a sport license.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I propose a guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery similar to the one in George Inlet near Ketchikan. Except I propose the ability to deregister and reregister for the commercial crab fishery as opposed to being registered for a full calendar year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenyatta Bradley (HQ-F17-050)

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**PROPOSAL 61**

**5 AAC 34.100 and 35.100. Description of Registration Area A.**

Expand waters of king and Tanner crab Registration Area A to include all waters from zero to 200 miles offshore, as follows:

Registration Area A **consists of all Pacific Ocean waters north of** [HAS AS ITS SOUTHERN BOUNDARY] the International Boundary **line** at Dixon Entrance, and **south of a line extending 231 deg. southwest** [AS ITS NORTHERN BOUNDARY A LINE EXTENDING SEAWARD

from the western tip of Cape Fairweather at 58° 47.89' N. lat., 137° 56.68' W. long. to the intersection with the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea at 58° 45.91' N. lat., 138° 01.53' W. long. **and all Pacific Ocean waters south of 58° 45.91' N. lat.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Rewrite the Southeast King and Tanner Regulations to include all waters of the Pacific Ocean. The state has the management authority of crab fisheries out to 200 miles, however the language of 34.100 and 35.100 restrict Registration Area A to the 3 mile line, preventing access to crabs outside of 3 miles. Registration Areas A and D are the only Registration Areas that do this.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jared Bright (EF-F17-064)  
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**PROPOSAL 62**

**5 AAC 34.160 and 35.160. Description of Registration Area D.**

Expand waters of King and Tanner crab Registration Area D to include all waters from zero to 200 miles offshore, as follows:

Registration area D **consists of all Pacific Ocean waters east of the longitude of Cape Suckling (144 deg. W. long.), and north of a line extending 231 deg. southwest from the western tip of Cape Fairweather at 58.47.89N. lat., 137.56.68W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Rewrite the Yakutat King and Tanner Regulations to include all waters of the Pacific Ocean. The state has the management authority of crab fisheries out to 200 miles, however the language of 34.160 and 35.160 restrict Registration Area D to the 3 mile line, preventing access to crabs outside of 3 miles. Registration Areas A and D are the only Registration Areas that do this.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jared Bright (EF-F17-065)  
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**PROPOSAL 63**

**5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan.**

Open an exploratory commercial red king crab fishery in specific areas during years of low estimated abundance, as follows:

**(c) on years the departments estimate of the available harvest is below the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab, there will be an exploratory fishery in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 south of Devils Elbow at 56. 34.73 N. lat., 6 south of Midway Rock at 56.31.84 N. lat., 7, 8 south of Banana Point at 56.33.11 N. lat., and Outside Waters.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The size and scope of the Red King Crab biomass in Southern Southeast Alaska is unknown. The state has limited resources, tasking the department to conduct an extensive survey to quantify the biomass of Red King Crab in Southern Southeast Alaska is not an option. Having an exploratory Red King Crab fishery in non surveyed areas that also have traditionally low effort/harvest (Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, outside

waters and portions of Districts 5, 6 and 8) on years that the Southeast Red King Crab biomass estimate does not meet the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male Red King Crab, would provide the state with revenue, fisherman with opportunity, and the department with valuable (free) survey information

**PROPOSED BY:** Jared Bright, Luke Whitethorn, Yancey Nilsen, and Derek Thynes  
(EF-F17-062)

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**PROPOSAL 64**

**5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan and 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.**

Manage the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial red king crab fishery under an equal quota share when harvestable surplus is less than 200,000 pounds, as follows:

**5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan**

(c) **Until January 24, 2021**, the department shall **open the fishery as an equal quota share if the department's estimate of the available harvestable surplus is greater than 50,000 pounds of legal male red king crab and less than the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab. When the minimum threshold of 200,000 pounds is met or exceeded, the traditional fishery shall be prosecuted.**

**5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A**

(b) The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area A:

- (1) During the commercial red king crab season, the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab is as follows:
  - (A) No more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least **50,000** [200,000] but not more than 399,999 pounds;
  - (B) no more than 30 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 400,000 but not more than 499,999 pounds;
  - (C) no more than 40 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 500,000 but not more than 599,999 pounds;
  - (D) no more than 50 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is 600,000 pounds or more;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We are looking for a way to prosecute a red king crab fishery when there is a harvestable surplus of less than 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab. This minimum threshold has not been addressed in several years, while the red king crab market price has increased. The minimum threshold was first set at 300,000 pounds in 1988 and later lowered to 200,000 in 2002 by the request of the industry and processors in response to the rising value of red king crab. According to the McDowell Group, since 2000, the statewide average price of red king crab has increased from \$7.02 a pound to \$13.50 in 2015.

We set this regulation to sunset before the start of the 2021/2022 season to allow this fishery management plan change a trial period of one board cycle.



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**PROPOSAL 65**

**5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.**

Expand fishing area for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.114 **Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan**, (b) To the extent possible, golden king crab shall be managed as a separate stock in each defined fishing area.

Deciding which fishing area these new areas are added in to, and therefore managed in conjunction with, is a somewhat complex matter. The following outline is more to show the intent of adding the areas rather than a guideline of how they should be added.

**5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. –**

(a) Northern area: all waters of section 11-A, **District 13, north of the latitude of Point Gardner at 57.01.00 N. lat.** and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.

(b) Icy Straight Area: all waters of **Districts 14 and 16.**

(c) Northern Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56.50.00 N. lat., 134.25.17 W. long. to Point Gardner at 57.01.00 N. lat., 134.37.00 W. long., **and all waters of District 8.**

(e) Mid-Chatham Straight Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56.33.67 N. lat., and west of a line from Kingsmill point to Point Gardner, **and all waters of District 13, south of the latitude of Point Gardner and North of the latitude of Point Ellis.**

(f) Lower Chatham Straight Area: all waters of **Districts 9 and 13, south of the latitude of Point Ellis.**

(g) Southern Area: all waters of **Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.**

**(h) Outside Area: all waters of Registration Area A not described in a-g.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current regulatory description of Golden King crab fishing areas within Registration Area A does not include all waters of Registration Area A. Not included in the description are all of : Districts 3, 16, and (the as of yet undefined) Southeast Outside waters; portions of Districts 5, 7, 8, and 13. Because these areas are not in the description of Golden King Crab fishing areas, they are described in the

Southeast Golden King Crab Fishery Announcements as “not open”. They are essentially closed to fishing for no other reason than the fact that they are not described as fishing areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jared Bright, Frank Warfel, and Yancey Nilsen (EF-F17-063)  
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**PROPOSAL 66**

**5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.**

Implement weather-related fishery closure delays for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

**(g) An area closure may be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the area contains gale force wind warnings of 35 knots and higher on the 4:00 a.m. forecast for the 2 days preceding and the day of an area closure in which case the area closure will be delayed 24 hours. If after the initial delay gale warnings continue the area closure may be delayed an additional 24 hours. An area closure delay may continue until weather improves. Managers shall take into account tidal conditions when selecting final closure day after a weather delay. For the purpose of this subsection, the corresponding National Weather Service Forecast shall be consulted for each area.**

- (1) Southern Lynn Canal;**
- (2) Northern Chatham Straits;**
- (3) Southern Chatham Straits;**
- (4) Stephens Passage;**
- (5) Frederick Sound;**
- (6) Clarence Strait;**
- (7) Southeast Outside Waters.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unsafe weather conditions at time of closure of golden king crab areas in Registration Area A.

Currently in regulation there is language to delay the start of the golden king crab fishery for safety reasons due to weather. Yet there is nothing in regulation to delay the closure of areas based on the same criteria.

When asked for a delay of closure of an area because of unsafe conditions I was told that the department was unable to do that after a closure announcement had been made.

Other solution would have been for department to create an emergency order delaying season. While capable of doing this department refused to use this tool. I think putting criteria in regulation takes the burden off of managers shoulders.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yancey Nilsen

(EF-F17-066)

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**PROPOSAL 67**

**5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.**

Establish a regulatory closure date for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.110(b) is amended to read:

(b) Male golden king crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon on the date with the smallest Juneau tidal range between February 10 and February 17, as announced by emergency order **through November 15**. [;UNTIL THE SEASON IS CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The purpose of this proposal is to provide maximum fishing opportunity while allowing the department adequate time to assess fishery data after the season closes. The proposed season end date provides a three-month closure for processing and analysis of fishery data; similar to what is provided for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery. Setting a fixed season end date also allows fishery participants to better plan their annual fishing operations. An end date in regulation would not supersede current management practices of targeting GHGs by fishery area and closing fishery areas by emergency order when GHGs are met, or closing areas short of GHGs due to conservation concerns.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-106)

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**PROPOSAL 68**

**5 AAC 34.114. Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan.**

Define methods used to set guideline harvest levels in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

**(d) The Policy on King and Tanner Crab Resource Management (90-04-FB, March 23,1990) states that a Guideline Harvest Level is a preseason estimate of the level of allowable king and Tanner crab harvest. In those fisheries with accurate population estimates the appropriate harvest rate is applied to the best point estimate to determine the GHL. For those fisheries without surveys or historical catch information adequate for estimating the population size, the GHL will be set based on historical fishery performance, catch, and population trend. Due to the lack of formal assessments and only data being available from the fishery, each Golden King crab area shall open for a set of tides to a pre-season guideline harvest level that is a minimum of 10% of the upper range of the guideline harvest range set for the area. After one set of tides, the GHL can be re-assessed and the fishery will be managed in-season accordingly.**

**(e) In-season adjustments may be made to the guideline harvest level and length of the fishing season. Information upon which such adjustments are based may include: 1.) overall fishing effort; 2.) catch per unit of effort and rate of harvest; 3.) relative abundance of Golden King crab; 4.) achievement of guideline harvest level (GHL); 5.) proportion of soft-shelled crabs and rate of dead loss; 6.) general information on stock condition including adequacy of reproductive stock; 7.) timeliness and accuracy of catch reporting; 8.) adequacy of subsistence harvests; 9.) the impact of severe or unexpected environmental conditions on the handling and trapping morality of crab; and 10.) other factors that affect ability to meet objectives of the policy. When this information shows that continued fishing effort would jeopardize the reproductive viability of king crab stocks within a registration area, or continued fishing would be counter to the goal and policies established by the Board, the registration area or a portion of the registration area will be closed by Emergency Order.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the *Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan* to further clarify for fishermen the expectations of how the fishery will be managed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Petersburg Vessel Owner’s Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (HQ-F17-058)

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**PROPOSAL 69**

**5 AAC 34.115. Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.**

Reduce Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery guideline harvest ranges, as follows:

5 AAC 34.115(b) is amended to read:

(b) In Registration Area A, the guideline harvest ranges for the taking of golden king crab in the following areas are:

- (1) Northern Area: 0 – **145,000** [175,000] pounds;
- (2) Icy Strait Area: 0 – **55,000** [75,000] pounds;
- (3) North Stephens Passage Area: 0 – 25,000 pounds;
- (4) East Central Area: 0 – **225,000** [300,000] pounds;
- (5) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: 0 – 150,000 pounds;
- (6) Lower Chatham Strait Area: 0 – 50,000 pounds;
- (7) Southern Area: 0 – 25,000 pounds;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2009, the Alaska Board of Fisheries increased the upper end of guideline harvest ranges (GHRs) in three of seven golden king crab fishery areas (Northern, Icy Strait, and East Central). The golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska has declined considerably since the 2012/2013 season, similar to stock declines during the 1990s after intense fishing pressure in the 1980s. This proposal would lower the upper end of the GHR ranges for the Northern, Icy Strait, and East Central fishery areas to their previous levels which

are more representative of the long-term range of harvest levels comprising maximum sustained yield for these stocks than are the status quo GHRs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-107)  
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**PROPOSAL 70**

**5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.**

Reduce the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery pot limit from 100 pots per vessel to 80 pots per vessel, as follows:

5 AAC 34.125(b)(2) is amended to read:

(b)(2) when the commercial golden king crab season is open in Registration Area A, and the commercial red king crab or Tanner crab season is closed, no more than **80** [100] king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fishing for king crab;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A golden king crab pot reduction to 80 pots would mirror the pot allowance currently in regulation for the Tanner crab fishery, which has the same start date as the golden king crab fishery. Reducing the number of pots in the fishery will help to ease fishing pressure on the Southeast Alaskan golden king crab stock and improve management precision in targeting fishery area guideline harvest levels.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-108)  
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**PROPOSAL 71**

**5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.**

Allow operation of commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the 14 days after closure of the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 35.128(c) is added:

**(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 35.053(1), during the 14 days after the close of the commercial Tanner crab season in Registration Area A; a vessel or person that participated in a commercial Tanner crab fishery may operate commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in Tanner crab Registration Area A after putting Tanner crab pots in storage, as specified in 5 AAC 35.052, and, unless the registration is already invalidated under 5 AAC 35.020(k), after invalidating the vessel's Tanner crab registration by contacting, in person, a local representative of the department.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current commercial Dungeness crab and king crab regulations allow for operation of commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the 14 days after commercial closures if gear is put in storage as specified in regulation and a local representative of the department invalidates the vessel's registration. Current Tanner crab regulations only allow the operation of other commercial pots (not subsistence, sport, or personal use pots) in the 14 days after the commercial closure if gear is put in storage as specified in regulation

and a local representative of the department invalidates the vessel's registration. The change specified above would align the commercial Tanner crab fishery with commercial Dungeness crab and king crab fisheries to allow operation of commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use pots in the 14 days after commercial closures if gear is put in storage as specified in regulation and a local representative of the department invalidates the vessel's registration.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-116)  
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**PROPOSAL 72**

**5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy.**

Re-define 'non-core' areas and define 'exploratory' areas in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

(c)

We recommend re-defining all areas of the non-core that have had a landing in the last 5 seasons as 'non-core.' All remaining areas that are not defined as core or non-core, shall be defined as 'exploratory' areas. Exploratory areas should remain open for a minimum of 14 days after noncore areas close.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like to re-define 'non-core' areas and define 'exploratory' areas. Some areas of Southeast have not been fished for Tanners in decades, and we would like to give fishermen an opportunity to try these areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jared Bright, Ty Barkhofer, Dale Bartells, John Berry, Charlie Christensen, Jerry Dahl, Troy Denkinger, Ken Eichner, Craig Evens, Jeremy Jensen, Aaron Miller, Mike Nilsen, Yancey Nilsen, Dennis O'Neil, Justin Peeler, Eric Rosvold, Aaron Severson, Mark Severson, Gary Slaven, Derek Thynes, Kory Versteeg, Dan Vick, Luke Whitethorn, Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association, Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance, Alaska Glacier Seafoods, Icicle Seafoods (HQ-F17-057)  
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**PROPOSAL 73**

**5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy.**

Manage the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Tanner crab fishery using an equal quota share, as follows:

(b)

(1) In the Area A Tanner crab fishery, the holder of a CFEC permit or interim use permit for tanner crab may not retain more tanner crab in the directed fishery than the annual amount of tanner crab equal quota share that is specified by the department. The department shall determine the annual amount of tanner crab equal quota share by dividing the annual harvest objective, by the number of CFEC permits and interim use permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. The department shall use the best available information, including harvest rate and biological data, to set the annual harvest objective.

(2) When participating in the Area A Tanner crab fishery, a person holding a CFEC permit or interim use permit for that fishery must retain in the persons possession and present for inspection on board the vessel on which that person is registered to fish, a copy of each completed fish ticket issued to the person during the current season. The permit holder shall provide each buyer with the total weight of tanner crab that the permit holder has landed to date in the fishery for that year.

(3) If a permit holders harvest exceeds the permit holders equal quota share established by the department under (1) or (2) of this section for that year, by not more than five percent, the department shall reduce the permit holders equal quota share for the following year by the amount of the overage. The adjusted equal quota share is the permit holders quota share for that year. If a permit holders harvest exceeds the permit holders quota share by more than five percent, the proceeds from the sale of the overage in excess of five percent shall be surrendered to the state. A permit holder may not assume that the ability to adjust a quota share under this section is an opportunity to knowingly exceed a quota share or to exceed the equal quota share in an amount greater than five percent as such action may be prosecuted under AS 16.05.722 or AS 16.05.723.

(4) If a permit holders harvest is less than the permit holders equal quota share established under (1) or (2) of this section for that year, the department shall increase the permit holders equal quota share only for the following year by the amount of the underage that does not exceed five percent of the equal quota share.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Area A tanner crab fishery is the only active tanner crab fishery left in the state of Alaska. It has gone from a month long fishery in the 1980's to only a week in 2017. Unfortunately, in 2017 the price is roughly the same as it was 30 years ago, unadjusted for inflation. Coincidentally, the product form has not changed in 30 years either. This is because we as commercial fishermen rush out, quickly catch the tanners, and drop them off at the processors where they have no choice but to put them into the same antiquated, easy, quick, box frozen product form. Fishermen and Processors alike need a significantly longer season to creatively market these unique crab. Under 5 AC 35.110, the commercial fishing season for tanner crab in Area A is from February 10 to May 1. Having a fishery that uses all of these available days will allow fishermen and processors alike to derive the highest value out of this unique State of Alaska resource.

I propose making the Area A Tanner crab fishery a mirror of the EQS in the Northern and Southern Southeast Sablefish fisheries. Divide the total harvest objective by the number of limited entry permits. Allow each permit holder to fish the full three month fishery. Allow each permit holder to sell when and to whom they want to at a price both parties agree is fair. Give the processors incentive to develop new markets that provide themselves, fishermen and the State of Alaska more revenue. The same amount of crab will be caught with either harvest strategy. But the State of Alaska has a duty to help maximize the value of its peoples resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Kittams (EF-F17-112)  
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**PROPOSAL 74**

**5 AAC 35.165. Description of Registration Area D districts.**

Establish a tanner crab fishery in a section of the Yakutat District, as follows:

- (a) Yakutat District: all waters of Alaska between the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.) and the longitude of Icy Cape (141° 42' W. long).**
- (b) Yakutat District: all waters of Alaska between the longitude of Icy Cape (141° 42' W. long.) and a line projected southwest from the westernmost tip of Cape Fairweather.**
  - (1) Yakutat Bay Section: all waters of the Yakutat District northeast of a line from Ocean Cape at (coordinates) to Point Manby at (coordinates)** [REGISTRATION AREA D DISTRICTS ARE DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 30.200].

Approximately 20 years ago, all forms of commercial crab fishing ceased in the Yakutat area. At the time, stocks were declining, and there appeared to be a biological need to do so. Since then, the Yakutat A.C. has been working toward getting these fisheries tested, and or obtaining a limited, test fishery. We asked for the tanner crab pot limit to be reduced from 100 pots to 40, with the intent of having a small, two week test fishery to see what kind of stocks are available. The pot limit was reduced, but the fishery never happened. We've asked to have a Dept. sanctioned biomass study done, but have been informed that there is no money for the study. Revisiting our original proposal, we recommended that we implement a 2 week test fishery, in which our fishermen provide boats, Dept. staff would be welcome, and the crab can be released, we just need to know what is out there. We have had numerous testimonies that state that subsistence pots are coming up full of tanner crab, and our hope is to see if market quantities are available. To date, we have been told that this test fishery cannot proceed, because the Yakutat area is big, and our local boats would not sample it all the way from Fairweather to Sukling.

Therefore, this proposal asks that the Yakutat tanner crab fishery statistical area be broken up in this fashion. Yakutat Bay would become its own statistical area, separate from the rest of the district by a line from Ocean Cape, to Point Mamby. This area could then be allowed a 2 week test fishery in which participants must register and Dept. staff would be welcome to come and count crab, which could then be released. If it is determined that there are in fact market quantities of crab available, then a structured fishery could proceed according to those findings. If market quantities are in fact found in Yakutat Bay, then we would ask that an official sampling of the remainder of the district be conducted.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Our proposed solution has been outlined. Commercial crab fisheries were a huge part of Yakutat's economy, as well as to fishermen who came here from other regions. If we're going to be proper stewards of the resource, then a better mechanism is needed for testing and managing fisheries that have been emergency closed. We fully understand the State's limited financial abilities, and we are trying to accommodate the need with the use of volunteers. Currently, it would appear that if your commercial fishery is ever emergency closed, it means you have permanently lost it. We find this unacceptable.

What we are asking for is a test fishery, all crab would be released unharmed, and no one would be adversely affected. The volunteer fishermen are available to test Yakutat Bay anytime, and in any fashion the Dept. sees fit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-026)  
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**PROPOSAL 75**

**5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.**

Reopen the personal use shrimp fishery in Section 11-A, as follows:

Reopen 11A to personal use. It was closed in 2013 with an old shrimp survey from 2007.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 11A shrimp: the department is saying 11A is the same as Tenakee Inlet. That is a big commercial inlet for shrimp and is 60 miles south from 11A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick Yurko

(HQ-F17-002)

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**PROPOSAL 76**

**5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means and general provisions – Shellfish.**

Establish mesh size requirements for Southeast Alaska Area sport fishing shrimp pots, as follows:

I recommend the board impose a minimum mesh size for sport shrimp pots in southeast Alaska, both netted and rigid, equal to the sport fish regulations already in place describing legal gear of shrimp pots in southcentral Alaska as follows. This is a direct copy and paste from southcentral sportfish shellfish regulations. Under this regulation, rigid sport shrimp pots must have a mesh opening of 7/8 inch square inside measurement.

**Shrimp pot requirement:**

- Two vertical sides of all shrimp pots must be made entirely of webbing big enough to allow a 7/8-inch round wooden dowel to go through without stretching or otherwise deforming the opening.
- The two vertical sides must touch each other and cannot be covered by anything.
- The other two sides, top, bottom, and tunnels may be composed of any material.
- The 7/8-inch size allows undersize and juvenile shrimp to escape.

A shrimp pot with no definable sides, such as a round pot, must have 50% of its vertical surface area covered with 7/8-inch webbing. The other 50% of its vertical sides, as well as its top and bottom, may be composed of any material.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There are no restrictions in place regarding mesh size of shrimp pots for sport fishing in southeast Alaska to allow juvenile shrimp to escape.

Due to a trend in declining shrimp stocks and closures of several areas in southeast Alaska to sport and commercial use, it would seem to be a logical and responsible action to impose a minimum mesh size on sport shrimp pots to allow the escapement of juvenile shrimp. With no mesh restrictions in place, extremely young shrimp are harvested without a method for them to escape, facilitating the decline of this resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Woodrow

(EF-F17-013)

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**PROPOSAL 77**

**5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish.**

Amend shellfish methods and means and rescind unnecessary abalone regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.035 is amended to read:

(b) Shellfish may be taken [ONLY] as **provided in 5 AAC 75.035 or as** follows:

(1) **Repealed / /** [SHRIMP MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS AND RING NETS];

(2) **Repealed / /** [CRAB MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS, RING NETS, DIVING GEAR, DIP NETS, AND HOOKED OR HOOKLESS HAND LINES];

(3) **Repealed / /** [CLAMS MAY BE TAKEN BY RAKES, SHOVELS, OR MANUALLY OPERATED CLAM GUNS];

(4) **Repealed / /** [ABALONE MAY BE TAKEN BY ABALONE IRONS, DIVING GEAR, OR BY HAND, EXCEPT THAT A DIVER USING A COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEM, SUCH AS SCUBA OR HOOKAH, MAY NOT TAKE ABALONE];

(5) scallops may be taken by diving gear, dip nets, or by hand;

**(6) shellfish not otherwise specified in this chapter maybe taken by hook and line in addition to all gear specified in (b) of this section.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations for the sport harvest of shrimp, crab and clams in Southeast Alaska are redundant with statewide regulations.

In 2012, the abalone sport fishery was closed making abalone methods and means regulations under this section unnecessary.

In Southeast Alaska all shellfish species not listed within 5 AAC 47.020 have no bag possession, annual, or size limits (5 AAC 47.020(18)). However, the methods and means by which these unlisted species may be harvested are not defined in sport fishing regulations. Adding section (6) would identify the gear that may be used to harvest shellfish species for which there is no bag, possession, or size limits. This situation most commonly applies to the harvest of squid and octopus.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-125)

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**PROPOSAL 78**

**5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections, and 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.**

Add sections for Districts 6, 8, and 10 and provide shrimp fishery guideline harvest ranges for the new areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.105(f) is amended to read:

(f) District 6: waters of Clarence Strait that are north of a line running from Narrow Point **(55° 47.45' N. lat., 132° 28.57' W. long.)** to Lemesurier Point **(55° 46.02' N. lat., 132° 16.93' W. long.)**, to Ernest Point **(55° 51.00' N. lat., 132° 22.21' W. long.)**, [AND ENDING AT] **to** the

most southerly point on Etolin Island (55° 54.79' N. lat., 132° 21.24' W. long.), [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] south of the latitude of Round Point (56° 16.65' N. lat.), [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait [THAT ARE] west of a line from Point Alexander (56° 30.54' N. lat., 132° 56.94' W. long.) to Low Point (56° 27.18' N. lat., 132° 57.17' W. long.), and [THAT ARE] east of a line from Point Baker (56° 21.52' N. lat., 133° 37.58' W. long.) to Point Barrie (56° 26.18' N. lat., 133° 39.27' W. long.), [WATERS OF] Wrangell Narrows [THAT ARE] south and west of a line [RUNNING] from Prolewy Point (56° 50.12' N. lat., 132° 56.45' W. long.) to the northern tip of Mitkof Island (56° 49.38' N. lat., 132° 56.31' W. long.), and all waters of Duncan Canal[.];

(1) Section 6-A: waters north of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85' N. lat., 133° 04.00' W. long.), west of a line from the tip of Low Point (56° 27.18' N. lat., 132° 57.17' W. long.) to the tip of Point Alexander (56° 30.54' N. lat., 132° 56.94' W. long.) and east of a line from the tip of Point Barrie (56° 26.18' N. lat., 133° 39.27' W. long.) to the tip of Point Baker (56° 21.52' N. lat., 133° 37.58' W. long.);

(2) Section 6-B: waters south of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85' N. lat., 133° 04.00' W. long.), north and west of a line from the tip of Luck Point (55° 59.04' N. lat., 132° 44.07' W. long.) to the tip of Point Stanhope (56° 00.69' N. lat., 132° 36.46' W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40' N. lat., 132° 41.85' W. long.) to Key Reef Light (56° 09.61' N. lat., 132° 49.78' W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light (56° 13.22' N. lat., 132° 51.83' W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt (56° 13.92' N. lat., 132° 52.32' W. long.);

(3) Section 6-C: waters enclosed by a line from Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40' N. lat., 132° 41.85' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Screen Islands (56° 05.60' W. lat., 132° 42.61' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Marsh Island (56° 06.98' N. lat., 132° 43.20' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Steamer Rocks (56° 08.41' N. lat., 132° 43.64' W. long.) to Mariposa Rock Buoy (56° 10.67' N. lat., 132° 44.35' W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt (56° 13.92' N. lat., 132° 52.32' W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light (56° 13.22' N. lat., 132° 51.83' W. long.) to Key Reef Light (56° 13.22' N. lat., 132° 51.83' W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40' N. lat., 132° 41.85' W. long.);

(4) Section 6-D: all other waters of the district.

5 AAC 31.105(h) is amended to read:

(h) District 8: waters of Frederick Sound that are south of a line running from Wood Point (56° 59.47' N. lat., 132° 56.97' W. long.) to Beacon Point (56° 56.36' N. lat., 132° 59.74' W. long.), [BUT NOT INCLUDING] excluding Wrangell Narrows), [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait [THAT ARE] east of a line [RUNNING] from Point Alexander (56° 30.54' N. lat., 132° 56.94' W. long.) to Low Point (56° 27.18' N. lat., 132° 57.17' W. long.), [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Round Point (56° 16.65' N. lat.), [WATERS OF] Zimovia Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Nemo Point (56° 22.97' N. Lat., 132° 24.28' W. long.), and [WATERS OF] Eastern Passage [THAT ARE] west of a line [RUNNING] from Hour Point (56° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 16.63' W. long.) to Babbler Point (56° 29.08' W. lat., 132° 17.36' W. long.).

(1) Section 8-A: the waters of the district north of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06' N. lat., 132° 32.54' W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62' N. lat., 132° 13.12' W. long.);

**(2) Section 8-B: the waters of the district south of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06' N. lat., 132° 32.54' W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62' N. lat., 132° 13.12' W. long.).**

5 AAC 31.105(j) is amended to read:

(j) District 10: [WATERS OF] Frederick Sound, [and of] Stephens Passage, **and contiguous waters [THAT ARE] north of a line from Beacon Point (56° 56.36' N. lat., 132° 59.74' W. long.) to Wood Point (56° 59.47' N. lat., 132° 56.97' W. long.), east of a line from Point Macartney (57° 01.49' N. lat., 134° 03.51' W. long.) to the southern tip of Elliott Island (57° 15.20' N. lat., 134° 03.72' W. long.), [AND] north of the latitude of the southern tip of Elliott Island (57° 15.20' N. lat., 134° 03.72' W. long.), [WATERS OF] Seymour Canal [THAT ARE] south of 57°37' N. lat., and [WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE THAT ARE] south of a line [RUNNING] from Point League (57° 37.76' N. lat., 133° 40.47' W. long.) to Point Hugh (57° 34.21' N. lat., 133° 48.58' W. long.).**

**(1) Section 10-A: waters of the district west of line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90' N. lat., 133° 53.40' W. long.) to 57° 12.60' N. lat., 133° 53' W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10' N. lat., 133° 51.79' W. long.), to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40' N. lat., 133° 39.28' W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 52.55' W. long.), to 57° 36' N. lat., 133° 44.76' W. long.;**

**(2) Section 10-B: waters of the district north of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90' N. lat., 133° 53.40' W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 35.40' W. long.) and east of line from Pinta Point to 57° 12.60' N. lat., 133° 53' W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10' N. lat., 133° 51.79' W. long.), to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40' N. lat., 133° 39.28' W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10' N. lat., 133° 52.55' W. long.), to 57° 36' N. lat., 133°44.76' W. long.;**

**(3) Section 10-C: waters of the district east of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90' N. lat., 133° 53.40' W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12' N. lat., 133° 35.40' W. long.);**

5 AAC 31.115(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) District 6: [0 – 82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

**(A) Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D combined: 0–60,000 pounds of spot shrimp;**

5 AAC 31.115(a)(8) is amended to read:

(8) District 8: [0 – 28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

**(A) Sections 8-A and 10-C combined: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;**

**(B) Sections 8-B and 6-A combined: 0–25,000 pounds of spot shrimp;**

5 AAC 31.115(a)(10) is amended to read:

(10) District 10: [0 – 58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

**(A) Sections 10-A and 10-B combined: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercial pot shrimp fishing areas were originally determined using salmon fishing districts and sections. District 8 encompasses two separate water bodies (Frederick Sound and Sumner Strait) that are divided by Mitkof Island. The shrimp stocks in these two water bodies are separate and are closer linked to portions of Districts 6 and 10. This proposal would separate District 8 and combine the separated portions to portions of districts 6 and 10. The result will be all of eastern Frederick Sound will be managed as one area and all of eastern Sumner Strait will be managed as another area, thereby allowing the department to better manage shrimp populations in these areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-113)  
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**PROPOSAL 79**

**5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing seasons and periods for Registration Area A and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.**

Repeal winter commercial shrimp fishery and modify fishing season for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery to avoid egg bearing shrimp, as follows:

Open the shrimp commercial fishing in April after the shrimp have got eggs hatch.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the commercial shrimp opening from October when most shrimp have eggs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-001)  
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**PROPOSAL 80**

**5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.**

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel, limit the number of pots per string and pot spacing, and limit gear to one operation cycle per day in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

Limit shrimp pot gear as follows:

1. Small pots:
  - a. Reduce the maximum limit of small pots from 140 to 100 per license;
  - b. Limit each string to be comprised of 4 pots only, 25 string max;
  - c. Pots must be 15 fathoms apart on a string.
2. Large pots:
  - a. Reduce the maximum limit of large pots from 100 to 75 per license;
  - b. Limits each string to be comprised of 3 pots only, 25 string max;
  - c. Pots must be 20 fathoms apart on a string.
3. In addition to the pot limits described above, single pot deployment would not be allowed;
4. Gear would be limited to one pull per day, from 8am to 4pm.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Standardization and reduction of shrimp pot gear.

Currently the pot shrimp fishery is much like a derby fishery, with most districts open less than one month in order to prevent overfishing. This proposal would provide better control by managers and allow longer openings. Managers would be able to more accurately determine how much linear coverage is being fished in a district at any time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Westlund (HQ-F17-088)  
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**PROPOSAL 81**

**5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 31.126. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31. 141. Logbooks.**

Allow commercial shrimp pots in the Southeastern Alaska Area to be pulled only one time per day, as follows:

The solution is to limit the number of times a pot can be picked to once a day by adding a new regulation to 5 AAC 31.124. To be successful, several other regulations would need to change. First, limit the number of buoys each boat may have in the water to 20 in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Second, each set of pots must have a buoy on each end with an identifying set number that will be used in the logbook, also in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Third, the time, latitude and longitude when each set is picked and set should be recorded in a daily logbook in ink, which would be a new regulation in 5 AAC 31.124. This would result in boats fishing longer sets and no more than 10 sets per boat. By boats hauling longer sets and documenting when they haul them, enforcement would be easily accomplished. When considering these regulation changes, also consider: 1) only minor changes would occur to gear; 2) the importance of estimating number of pot lifts in ADF&G's attempt to calculate daily production; 3) reduction in fleet efficiency and prolonging the season length; 4) reduction in the occurrence of stock depletion; 5) the possibility of more hours to work gear daily; 6) reduction of the number of undersize shrimp harvested or disturbed; 7) the only other change that could be made to protect small shrimp is to look at a minimum size for retention.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercial pot shrimp fishermen are allowed to pick their pots multiple times a day. This practice adversely affects shrimp stocks and managers ability to accurately assess effort levels. The need for a single daily lift of shrimp gear has been discussed with knowledge that short soaks will yield a larger percentage of small shrimp. This practice hurts the long term health of shrimp stocks. The most often stated objection is that a single pick regulation cannot be enforced. However, the Canadian fishery is proof that it can be done.

**PROPOSED BY:** James E. Smith (EF-F17-010)  
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**PROPOSAL 82**

**5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.**

Close the Section 11-A commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

Keep unit 11A to personal use shrimp fishing as is.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Close commercial shrimp in Unit 11A. There were two fishermen who tried this unit and didn't find good shrimp to keep fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-003)

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**PROPOSAL 83**

**5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A and 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.**

Close waters of Section 11-A to commercial fishing for shrimp and red king crab, as follows:

The commercial fishery for red king crab and spot shrimp in 11-A should be abolished.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercial fishing in 11-A for red king crab and shrimp. Historic lack of personal use fisheries after a commercial opening

There always was an abundance of crab and shrimp to support a personal use fishery in 11-A. each time there was a commercial opening the stocks were decimated which resulted in very lengthy closures. I commercial fished westward and kodiak for twenty years and realize that it is a wonderful way to make a living-we are only asking for a small piece of these fisheries for personal use-most personal use fisherman are only active for a few months and would barely touch the stocks that have by now rebuilt. The crab and shrimp surveys have been very inconclusive and areas of abundant crab/shrimp are often overlooked. the computer models can easily be wrong and there should be in place a way to log and document our sport effort to help with research. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Gallant (EF-F17-118)

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**PROPOSAL 84**

**5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.**

Close additional waters in District 2 to commercial pot shrimp fishing, as follows:

(4) Shrimp may not be taken: in the waters of Kasaan Bay north and west of a line from the northern most tip of Daisy Island located at 55'28.816"N lat, 132'19.379"W long. northeast to a point on Kasaan Peninsula located at 55'30.533"N lat, 132'18.191"W, including all waters of Twelve-mile Arm;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** ~~The 2013 October commercial shrimp season for District 2 has left the personal use shrimpers with low shrimp biomass. District 2 is a large area; however the commercial fishing fleet focused their efforts in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm in 2013 which are adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan. Both areas were hard to navigate during the fishery from the large amount of commercial gear. After the 2013 commercial season, personal use fishermen had a hard time

locating shrimp in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm. When shrimp was harvested, the numbers of them caught, and continue today in the single digits and small in size. The area used to receive moderate personal use fishing pressure through-out the year from residents of Prince of Wales Island as well as Ketchikan. Prince of Wales has a large population of subsistence / personal use users who rely on the land and ocean to feed their families. The island has a high cost of living with a financially depressed economy. ADF&G held a 2014 commercial shrimp season; however they closed Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm after a period where the commercial fishermen were catching very low numbers for the effort they put in to the fishery. Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm remained closed for the 2015 and 2016 commercial shrimp seasons by emergency order due to a low biomass. The personal use fishermen have exhausted most of their efforts and express they will continue their efforts when the shrimp catch rate equals the financial burden of fuel and operation costs. Currently the shrimp biomass is harvested commercially in October while the female shrimp contain eggs and is marketed to an overseas market. This commercial closure of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm is a small percentage of District 2 which runs the eastern shores of Prince of Wales Island south of Narrow Point and north of the US/Canadian border. This area includes all waters of bays and sounds on Prince of Wales Island on the eastern shore, south of Narrow Point. The large commercial vessels can easily navigate these areas open to commercial shrimping and away from the communities of Hollis and Kasaan who rely on a subsistence lifestyle to exist.

A regulation closure of the area to commercial shrimping would protect a relatively small percentage of District 2 to allow personal use fishermen to utilize the resource. Ketchikan personal use fishermen would benefit from closed commercial shrimp area as buoys in the Kasaan Bay are routinely observed with Ketchikan addresses. The area selected for the closure is in close proximity to the community of Hollis and village of Kasaan. Both places have harbors and boat launches which are utilized by all residents of Prince of Wales Island with small vessels. Commercial vessels would still be able to fish District 2 in waters not directly adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Hollis Community Council Inc.

(EF-F17-021)

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**PROPOSAL 85**

**5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp beam trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A.**

Expand current beam trawl shrimp fishery logbook requirement to cover all fishing areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.111 (a) (3) is amended to read:

(a) In Registration Area A, **a person may fish for shrimp only after contacting the department and obtaining a logbook; the logbook must be completed and attached to the corresponding shrimp fish tickets.** **Shrimp** [SHRIMP] may be taken by beam trawls only as follows:

...



(3) in Districts 3, 5, 9, 11, in District 6, that portion south of a line from Mitchell Point to Point St. John, in District 10, that portion west of the longitude and north of the latitude of the westernmost tip of Cape Fanshaw, and in District 7, except in Eastern Channel west of 132° 06.50' W. long., from May 1 through February 28; [A PERSON MAY FISH FOR SHRIMP ONLY AFTER CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT AND OBTAINING A LOGBOOK; THE LOGBOOK MUST BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO THE CORRESPONDING SHRIMP FISH TICKETS;]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Harvest in the southeast shrimp beam trawl fishery most recently peaked in the mid-1990s at approximately three million pounds. Due to a poor market, catch subsequently dropped to less than 100,000 pounds by 2007. In recent seasons catches have been expanding and additional information for management is needed. The current regulations require logbooks in areas with a history of low effort and a majority of trawl shrimp are landed from districts with no logbook requirement, thus only pounds harvested by species is reported. Without the corresponding effort data there is no way to calculate catch per unit effort (CPUE) for the fishery. Without this basic stock health metric the department must manage the fishery based on harvest levels that allowed for fishery expansion over 30 years ago. This proposal would allow department staff to have access to both catch and effort information which would improve management of the fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-114)  
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**PROPOSAL 86**

**5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**

Open fishing areas deemed to have stable sea cucumber populations to commercial harvest of sea cucumbers without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey, as follows:

(c)(1) On an annual basis the department may identify certain areas to open that do not require a pre-fishery survey.

These areas are to be identified prior to the season's assessment surveys. The Guideline Harvest Level would be based on the previous survey. No area can go more than one rotation cycle without an assessment survey. The department may identify these areas based a long term assessments and in areas of stable populations.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to modify the *Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan* to allow ADF&G to open areas for the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey. Stock assessment survey are very expensive both for SARDFA and ADF&G. Sea cucumber stock assessment surveys have been done for approximately 30 years in SE AK. SARDFA would like to have some areas with long term stable populations be open to harvest without a pre-fishery survey. Any area that would be identified could only miss one pre-fishery assessment. ADF&G, in cooperation with SARDFA, would identify the areas prior to the department conducting assessment surveys.

This proposal is intended to lower the annual costs of surveys for both SARDFFA and ADF&G.

*What would happen if nothing is changed?* Status quo. ADF&G would continue to do expensive dive assessment on all sea cucumber beds scheduled to be open that year.

*What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?* It is possible to continue with the current system, but continuing high costs of surveys may limit the department's ability to survey all open areas which would cost SARDFFA sea cucumber divers GHL.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-066)

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**PROPOSAL 87**

**5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**

Open waters of a number of fishing areas previously closed to commercial sea cucumber harvest, as follows:

**(k) The following waters are closed to commercial sea cucumber fishing:**

...

- (k) (2) repealed** (Dist. 2 Kasaan Bay)
- (k) (3) (A) repealed** (Dist. 3 Sukkwan Straits)
- (k) (3) (B) (i) repealed** (Dist. 3 Prince of Wales Island)
- (k) (3) (B) (ii) repealed** (Dist. 3 Port Caldera)
- (k) (4) repealed** (Dist. 5 Shipley Bay)
- (k) (5) repealed** (Dist. 6 Whale Pass/Coffman Cove)
- (k) (6) repealed** (Dist. 9 Rowan Bay)
- (k) (7) repealed** (Dist. 10 Gambier)
- (k) (8) repealed** (Dist. 11 Stephens Pass)

...

- (k) (11) (A) repealed** (Section 13-A Chichagof Island)
- (k) (11) (B) repealed** (Section 13-B Whale Bay)
- (k) (12) repealed** (Section 14-B Port Fredrick)
- (k) (13) repealed** (Section 15-C Lynn Canal)
- (k) (14) repealed** (Dist. 16 Torch Bay)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFFA) would like to modify the *Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan* by eliminating several closed waters sections. These closed water are mainly near small towns, but there is no available information to show that allowing a harvest in these areas every three years would harm local harvest of sea cucumbers for personnel or subsistence use.

All of these areas are adjacent to waters open to the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers. This should increase the GHL in years of declining harvest due to sea otters. This modification does not attempt to open areas in SE AK that the department uses as control areas.

*What would happen if nothing is changed?* The status quo remains. Possible increase in the sea cucumber GHL would not happen.

*What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?* At this time we have not considered other solutions. It may be possible to adjust each individual area, but there is no information available showing personnel use sea cucumber harvest within these areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-067)  
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**PROPOSAL 88**

**5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**

Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial sea cucumber fishery, as follows:

(h)  $M = 0.32$  estimated instantaneous mortality rate for sea cucumbers;  $P =$  virgin population size, taken as the **mid-point** (lower bound) of the one sided 90 percent confidence interval.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the sea cucumber fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population.

*What would happen if nothing is changed?* The GHL would still be managed at lower levels, especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the population regardless if the lower or mid-point is used.

*What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?* It is possible to discuss this on an area by area basis. SARDFA believes in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population the extremely conservative management of the lower bound of the confidence level is not necessary.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-068)  
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**PROPOSAL 89**

**5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.**

Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial geoduck fishery, as follows:

(g) The guideline harvest level for each area will be calculated as two percent of the most recent estimated biomass, **using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval**, per year.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the geoduck clam fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery.

*What would happen if nothing is changed?* There would remain annual confusion as to whether ADF&G is managing for the lower end of the confidence level or the mid-point.

*What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?* It is possible to discuss on an annual basis the department's management goal, however SARDFA believes this would eliminate any confusion on how the fishery is being managed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-064)  
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**PROPOSAL 90**

**5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.**

Open previously non-surveyed fishing areas to a limited commercial harvest of geoducks without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey, as follows:

(g)(1) The department may open for commercial harvest areas that have not been surveyed in order to identify areas that may have commercially viable geoduck beds.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to work with ADF&G in opening new geoduck clam areas in Southeast Alaska. Geoduck beds are difficult and expensive for ADF&G to survey and open. SARDFA would like for ADF&G to open areas that have not been surveyed to identify where commercially viable beds might be. If after a small controlled fishery it is determined there is a commercially viable geoduck bed ADF&G would do an official assessment survey and establish a Guideline Harvest Level for future years.

*What would happen if nothing is changed?* Status quo remains and it becomes more difficult and expensive to expand the geoduck fishery.

*What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?* ADF&G or SARDFA could do exploratory dives to locate beds, but this is expensive and unreliable for both ADF&G and SARDFA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-065)  
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**PROPOSAL 91**

**5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.**

Establish a weekly geoduck harvest limit of 1,000 pounds per diver in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

(n) A calendar weekly limit of 1,000 lbs. of geoduck clams harvested and landed per licensed geoduck clam diver is imposed. The calendar week begins on Monday night 12:01 am AST and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 pm AST. A 10% overage is allowed with the sale of the overage deposited in a separate ADFG account which will be used to offset the annual ADFG operating budget for the management of this fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The geoduck clam fishery is a small and unique fishery. These large clams are individually harvested by divers. They are harvested, transported and delivered to overseas markets **alive**. Geoducks clams have a limited "shelf life" and the difference in value between a dead, processed clam and a live clam is large. Almost unbelievably so, the difference can be \$1.50/lb. compared to \$15/lb. Our manner of fishing, a 6 hour "free for all," damages the value of our resource and damages Alaska reputation as a leader in high quality seafood.

The problems associated with our current fishery regime have been endemic in our industry for more than a decade. We routinely overwhelm air cargo and its capacity to timely deliver this product to its destination. We overwhelm the boxing facilities and purchasers capacity to effectively transport and sell this live clam due to the production uncertainties of a "free for all" fishery. Every other North American jurisdiction that has a geoduck clam fishery has imposed trip limits, individual fishing quotas, individual vessel quotas or marketing quotas to address the price differential between live and processed and between market demand and supply. The overseas markets demand and will pay top dollar for high quality product. As long as the harvest operates with the understanding, this is a highly perishable product that commands a premium price when intelligently marketed. By imposing these limits, other than a simple time limit, the fishermen, achieve prices that can be **4 to 10 times** greater and not create market disruptions.

These numbers make a tremendous difference in the overall value of our fishery and the fish tax paid to Alaska. We have written into regulation that this is a "live market" fishery because of the substantial market value increase associated with this harvest strategy. This increased value is tremendously important since we self-fund our fishery through SARDF. This is an important point, the fishermen, pay for the cost of this fishery. The cost does not come out of the General fund. We have substantial costs associated with the required DEC annual water quality testing, the DEC's weekly PSP testing per area and the ADFG's administrative and survey budget required to open our fishery. There have been prices paid for our harvest that do not meet these costs and it has been a continual struggle since this fishery's establishment to meet these ongoing and ever increasing regulatory costs.

This proposal seeks to eliminate the other factors in the fishery that contribute to our low prices and poor market reputation. Beyond the desire for intelligent marketing is another and graver concern regarding diver safety. Geoduck clams do not move, most of the beds with the "faster digging" are known to the divers. ADFG's directing a fishery by time, contributes to overcrowding of vessels and divers on these "better" areas with diver entanglements and physical altercations a routine occurrence. By spreading out the harvest time and placing a weekly trip limit on the fishermen the necessity of these unsafe practices will be greatly reduced. Why is that? There are many beds that are small with lower densities or deeper which limit a diver's productivity which

aren't utilized due to this "free for all" fishery. This may have the corollary effect in giving ADFG more bed information through our logbook program and the potential to possibly increase quotas via the addition of new beds.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cornelis "Casey" Bakker (EF-F17-072)

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**PROPOSAL 92**

**5 AAC 38.168. Guideline harvest range for the taking of scallops in Registration Area D.**

Remove guideline harvest range for District 16 scallops and set one guideline harvest range for all of Scallop Registration Area D, as follows:

In Scallop Registration Area D, described in 5 AAC 38.076(b) (2), the guideline harvest range for the taking of weathervane scallops is ~~as follows: 0 - 285,000 pounds of shucked meats~~  
(1) in District 16 as described in 5 AAC 33.200(p) : zero — 35,000 pounds of shucked meat;  
(2) in the remainder of Scallop Registration Area D: zero — 250,000 pounds of shucked meat.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Combine scallop areas Area D and Area 16. Scallop beds cross the line separating these two areas making it difficult to harvest and manage.

Area 16 can be an unpredictable area for fishing scallops. Some years catch rates and meats are too small, while other years catch rates are quite good and meats larger, making this a difficult area to manage, fish and plan for year to year.

If there was Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) encompassing both areas, fishermen would go to areas of higher catch rates whether in Area D or 16 and not fish in an area of lower catch rates just because there was a GHL set in there. Fishermen if allowed naturally will tend to fish in areas of highest catch rates, therefore this regulation change would help avoid needless localized depletion in areas of low catch rates.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-F17-023)

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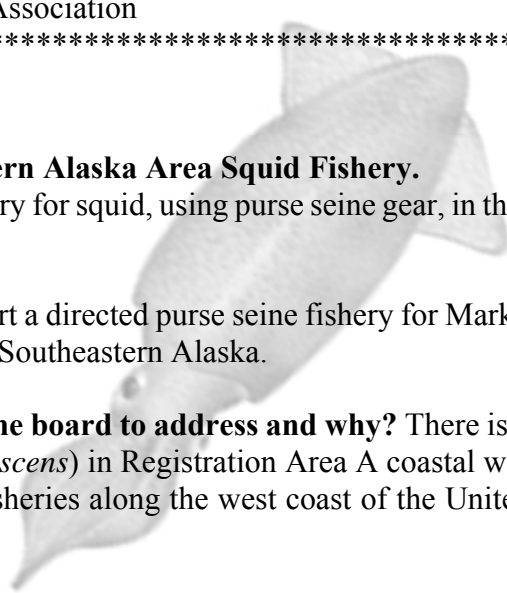
**PROPOSAL 93**

**5 AAC 38.1XX. Southeastern Alaska Area Squid Fishery.**

Establish a commercial fishery for squid, using purse seine gear, in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

I recommend the State of Alaska start a directed purse seine fishery for Market Squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) in Registration Area A Southeastern Alaska.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is a growing population of Market Squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) in Registration Area A coastal waters. Market Squid is harvested in directed purse seine fisheries along the west coast of the United States, primarily in



Oregon and California. Wholesale values for Market Squid can reach as high as \$3,500mt on lean harvest years and in over supply years range between \$1,400mt- \$1,600mt. This economic opportunity is going untouched in Coastal Alaska.

The northern range of Market Squid is likely expanding due to Pacific Ocean warming. It is known the warming ocean and acidification will negatively affect some economically important species (e.g. crab, shellfish), and therefore the State should be proactive and encourage the development of new fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Justin Peeler

(EF-F17-097)

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