

(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)

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)

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:

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- (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.