

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH
MARCH 6-9, 2018 | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
STATEWIDE PROPOSAL INDEX

Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.

Statewide Sport and Personal Use Shellfish (2 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 206

Allow use of pot gear to harvest octopus under sport fishing regulations.

PROPOSAL 207

Allow retrieval of personal use scallop dredges with five horsepower or less haulers.

Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Commercial Shellfish (5 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 208

Establish pot limits in the Alaska Peninsula District commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

PROPOSAL 209

Specify legal operation of commercial Dungeness crab pot gear in Registration Area J.

PROPOSAL 210

Establish fishing season for scallops in the Southeast District of Registration Area K.

PROPOSAL 211

Reduce closed waters for scallops in the Southwest District of Registration Area K.

PROPOSAL 212

Establish sea cucumber management plan in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J.

Cook Inlet Subsistence, Commercial, and Personal Use Shellfish (3 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 213

Repeal the Cook Inlet Area personal use clam fishery.

PROPOSAL 214

Modify sport and subsistence razor clam regulations in the Cook Inlet Area.

PROPOSAL 215

Allow commercially caught scallops in the Kamishak Bay District of the Cook Inlet Area to be delivered live.

Prince William Sound Shrimp (12 Proposals)

Noncommercial (2 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 216

Require participants in the Prince William Sound Area noncommercial shrimp fishery to register with the department prior to May 1.

PROPOSAL 217

Allow for harvest of octopus with additional gear while participating in the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery.

Commercial (10 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 218

Modify the start date for the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishing season.

PROPOSAL 219

Modify the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishing season.

PROPOSAL 220

Modify the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishing seasons to separate commercial and noncommercial seasons.

PROPOSAL 221

Amend statistical areas included in the three areas fished triennially on a rotating basis in the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery.

PROPOSAL 222

Modify the fishing area rotation system in the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery.

PROPOSAL 223

Remove the total allowable harvest threshold for the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery.

PROPOSAL 224

Modify the guideline harvest threshold for the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery.

PROPOSAL 225

Increase the commercial allocation of the total allowable harvest in the Prince William Sound Area shrimp pot fishery.

PROPOSAL 226

Reduce closed waters in the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp trawl fishery.

PROPOSAL 227

Repeal Prince William Sound Area commercial winter shrimp trawl fishery fishing season provisions allowing a fall/winter fishery.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
STATEWIDE DUNGENESS CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH
MARCH 6-9, 2018 | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
STATEWIDE PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 206

5 AAC 75.035. Sport fishing gear for shellfish.

Allow use of pot gear to harvest octopus under sport fishing regulations, as follows:

To allow a means to target and catch specifically octopus.

currently there are no regulations for fishing gear that specifically target octopus. In university of Alaska Alaska sea grant report no.88 July 1988 A guide for commercial fishermen by Brian C Paust research indicates that the Puget Sound style of open end box was more efficient to effectively target specifically octopus.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To define a type of fishing gear that may be used to catch octopus specifically and not other shellfish to allow for a means to target and catch specifically Octopus.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Trent

(EF-F17-088)

PROPOSAL 207

5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means and general restrictions.

Allow retrieval of personal use scallop dredges with five horsepower or less haulers, as follows:

(k) Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, gear used in the personal use taking of shellfish is limited to the following:

- (1) shrimp may be taken only with pots and ring nets;
- (2) crab may be taken only with pots, ring nets, diving gear, dip nets hooked or hookless handlines, or by hand; a line attached to a pole or rod may be used in the Bering Sea only when fishing a line through the ice;
- (3) clams may be taken only by hand or with rakes, shovels, and manually operated clam guns;
- (4) abalone may be taken only with abalone irons, diving gear, or by hand;
- (5) scallop dredges may be retrieved with a small (5hp or less) line hauler/pot puller.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently a person may only use a hand operated dredge for the PU scallop fishery. A person can use their vessel (with unlimited horsepower) to plane their dredge to the surface and use the buoy method to float their dredge and pull the dredge in horizontally rather than vertically. Pulling the dredge through the water at a high rate of speed to plane it to the surface can harm any bycatch species that need to be returned to the ocean. The buoy method in rough seas (rather common in Alaska) can make this a hazardous

procedure. If the dredge were to hook on the bottom while using the buoy method one can easily sink their vessel. Currently in the crab and shrimp PU fisheries a pot/puller are allowed.

Our recommendation is to allow for the use of small (5hp or less) line haulers/pot pullers to assist in the retrieval of a dredge in the PU scallop fishery. The small horsepower will not allow for commercial size dredges. This will make the fishery safer for everyone involved. This will also allow for less harm to come to any bycatch species that need to be returned immediately.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (EF-F17-035)

PROPOSAL 208

5 AAC 32.425. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.

Establish pot limits in the Alaska Peninsula District commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

0-40 ft. 50 pots

Over 40-50 ft. 75 pots

Over 50 ft. 100 pots

Vessels with at least 5 consecutive years participation through the 2017 seasons will be grandfathered at the 100 pot limit regardless of length.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Pot limit in the South Peninsula Dungeness fishery. The SAP Dungeness crab fishery is susceptible to Overcapitilization. More vessels are considering entering the fishery with no pot limits the SAP Dungeness fishery will surely collapse.

PROPOSED BY: Kiley Thompson (EF-F17-113)

PROPOSAL 209

5 AAC 32.4XX. Operation of pot gear for Registration Area J.

Specify legal operation of commercial Dungeness crab pot gear in Registration Area J, as follows:

5 AAC 32.4XX. Operation of pot gear for Registration Area J. (a) All pot gear used for commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Registration Area J shall

- (1) be removed from the water at least once within a 14-day period; or**
- (2) have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dungeness crab fisheries in Registration Area J are open access fisheries and there are no limits on the amount of pot gear that can be operated by a vessel. Pots which are not regularly lifted, inspected, and maintained have a greater likelihood of becoming lost or irretrievable. Lost or irretrievable pots may increase

Dungeness, Tanner and king crab mortality through ghost fishing and result in gear conflicts with other fisheries that occur after the Dungeness seasons close.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-094)

PROPOSAL 210

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-F17-024)

PROPOSAL 211

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

Reduce closed waters for scallops in the Southwest District of Registration Area K, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Scallopers used to fish here in the 60's and early 70's, until it was closed due to concern over unknown crab bycatch amounts in the region. Now that we have proven tools to keep our bycatch responsible and manageable, we would like to see this northern portion of SW Kodiak re-opened to Scallop fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-F17-025)

PROPOSAL 212

5 AAC 38.4XX. Registration Area J Sea Cucumber Management Plan and 5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in Registration Area J.

Establish sea cucumber management plan in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J, as follows:

5 AAC 38.4XX. Kodiak District Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (a) This management plan governs the harvest of sea cucumbers in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J.

(b) Before harvesting sea cucumbers, a person shall:

(1) obtain a valid CFEC interim use permit to harvest sea cucumbers with diving gear;

(2) validly register with the department.

(c) Sea cucumbers may be taken from October 1 through April 30 during fishing periods established by emergency order.

(d) Sea cucumbers may only be taken with diving gear operated in accordance with 5 AAC 38.054.

(f) In the Kodiak District, a person harvesting sea cucumbers shall maintain an accurate logbook of all diving operations.

(1) A logbook described in (f) of this section must

(A) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of individual sea cucumbers harvested, the number of pounds of sea cucumbers harvested, the minimum and maximum depth of each dive, the bottom time duration of each dive, and any other information deemed reasonable by the department;

(B) be delivered to a local representative of the department within 48 hours following the closure of a fishing period unless the permit holder has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, and the permit holder has contacted a local representative of the department within 48 hours following the closure of a fishing period and the representative has granted additional time.

(2) A person may not make a false entry in the logbook described in (f) of this section.

(g) Opening of a sea cucumber fishing period will be delayed for 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast for Shelikof Strait (PKZ138) or for Shuyak Island to Sitkinak Island (PKZ132) issued at 4:00 a.m. on the day before the scheduled opening date contains gale warnings for that day. If, after the initial delay, the following day's 4:00 a.m. forecast contains a gale warning for that day, the fishing period will be delayed for an additional 24 hours. The period opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until gale warnings are not forecasted.

(h) Notwithstanding (g) of this section

**(1) if a fishing period is not scheduled for the Westside Section of Kodiak District, gale warnings for Shelikof Strait (PKZ138) will not delay the fishing period;
or**

(2) if fishing periods are not scheduled for the Eastside or Southeast sections of Kodiak District, gale warnings for Shuyak Island to Sitkinak Island (PKZ132) will not delay the fishing period.

5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in the Chignik, South Peninsula, Eastern Aleutian, Western Aleutian, and Bering Sea districts of Registration Area J. In the Chignik, South Peninsula, Eastern Aleutian, Western Aleutian, and Bering Sea districts of Registration Area J, a person may take sea cucumbers only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner under 5 AAC 38.062 and only from October 1 through April 30 during fishing periods established by emergency order, except that in the Chignik District, a person may take sea cucumbers only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner and only from September 15 through April 30 during fishing periods established by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sea cucumber fisheries in Registration Area J are prosecuted under guidelines established by the department in a commissioner permit. Commissioner permits are largely used to guide exploratory and developing fisheries. Since 1993, participation in the Kodiak District sea cucumber fishery has been relatively steady, and in recent years the fishery is becoming increasingly competitive.

The proposed management plan for the Kodiak District will summarize and consolidate current management tools and regulations, and allow fishery stakeholders better opportunity to address Kodiak District specific management measures such as weather delay provisions or harvest allocations. Exploratory sea cucumber fisheries in the remainder of Registration Area J will continue to be prosecuted under the authority of a commissioner permit.

In past years fishery participants have organized informal, voluntary weather delays to address concerns about safely traveling to the fishing grounds during inclement weather. Formalizing a weather delay provision in regulation would clarify the weather delay procedure for both fishery participants and fishery managers.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-093)

PROPOSAL 213

5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery.

Repeal the Cook Inlet Area personal use clam fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.518 is repealed:

5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery. Repealed / /2018. [IN THE PERSONAL USE TAKING OF CLAMS

- (1) THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON;
- (2) THERE ARE NO BAG, POSSESSION, OR SIZE LIMITS FOR CLAMS, EXCEPT THAT (A) FROM THE MOUTH OF THE KENAI RIVER TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF THE HOMER SPIT, THE BAG LIMIT FOR RAZOR CLAMS IS THE FIRST 60 CLAMS HARVESTED AND THE POSSESSION LIMIT IS 120 CLAMS;

(B) THE COMBINED BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LITTLENECK CLAMS AND BUTTER CLAMS IS 80 CLAMS AND THE MINIMUM SIZE FOR LITTLENECK CLAMS IS ONE AND ONE-HALF INCHES IN LENGTH ACROSS THE WIDEST PART OF THE SHELL; AND FOR BUTTER CLAMS IS TWO AND ONE-HALF INCHES IN LENGTH ACROSS THE WIDEST PART OF THE SHELL;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The personal use fishing regulations are identical to sport fishing regulations for the razor and hardshell clam sport fisheries. Historically, management actions applied to the sport fishery are duplicated for the personal use fisheries. Since 1977, the annual harvest of razor and hardshell clams and annual effort in these fisheries has been estimated using the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS). The SWHS annual estimates do not distinguish between personal use and sport diggers; rather estimates reflect combined effort and harvest for both groups. The suggested change would reduce redundancy, simplify the codified regulations, and accurately reflect the management of these fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-119)

PROPOSAL 214

5 AAC 58.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Saltwater Area; and 5 AAC 02.310. Subsistence miscellaneous shellfish fishery.

Modify sport and subsistence razor clam regulations in the Cook Inlet Area, as follows:

5 AAC 58.022(14) is amended to read:

(14) razor clams: may be taken from January 1 – December 31 as follows:

(A) from the mouth of the Kenai River to the southernmost tip of the Homer Spit: the bag limit is the first 60 clams **dug** [HARVESTED]; the possession limit is 120 clams;

(B) on the remaining beaches of Cook Inlet – Resurrection Bay Area: no bag, possession, or size limits; **all clams dug must be retained**

5 AAC 02.310(b) is amended to read:

(b) In the subsistence taking of clams,

(1) clams may be taken only under the authority of a subsistence permit;

(2) There are no bag, possession or size limits for clams except that for littleneck and butter clams the bag and possession limit is 80 clams of either species or in combination and the minimum legal size is as follows:

(A) for littleneck clams, the minimum legal size is one and one-half inches across the widest width of the shell;

(B) for butter clams, the minimum legal size is two and one-half inches across the widest width for the shell;[.]

(C) for razor clams, all clams dug must be retained.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is no bag and possession limit for the razor clam sport or subsistence fisheries except for the fisheries on beaches from the mouth of the Kenai River to the tip of the Homer Spit (Eastside Cook Inlet beaches). Bag and possession limits were established for the Eastside Cook Inlet fisheries due to high effort and to reduce wastage because razor clams have fragile shells which are frequently damaged when dug and susceptible to high mortality if reburied.

Under current regulations, diggers are allowed to rebury razor clams that are dug on most Cook Inlet beaches. This proposal would require that all razor clams dug be harvested for the purpose of reducing wastage. Current regulatory language does not align with the intent of this purpose as it sets a bag limit for the first 60 clams harvested not the first 60 clams dug for the eastside Cook Inlet beaches. This proposal seeks to clarify and explicitly use dug instead of harvest in regulatory language for sport and subsistence clam fisheries on all Cook Inlet beaches. This proposal would also make this provision applicable to all Cook Inlet beaches for consistency.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-120)

PROPOSAL 215

5 AAC 38.327. Kamishak Bay District scallop management plan.

Allow commercially caught scallops in the Kamishak Bay District of the Cook Inlet Area to be delivered live, as follows:

(f) In the *Kamishak Bay District Scallop Management Plan* live scallops may be delivered providing:

- 1) A vessel operator or onboard observer must still randomly select 100 scallop top valves collected from each trip or during each five-day fishing period and deliver the top valves to the department following each trip.
- 2) In addition a log documenting the weight of the sum of these 100 recovered scallop meats will be recorded. An average weight will be determined and applied as the average weight per scallop for the portion of the harvest that will be offloaded as live in the shell product. This log will be delivered to the department following each trip.
- 3) The department will be notified 24 hours prior to the time of the anticipated offload and notified of the anticipated volume of both live and shucked product. Either the vessel operator, onboard observer, or representative of the department will do a piece count of every live scallop offloaded and calculate the meat weight as derived from the sampling done during the trip to count towards the meat quota of the license.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We own scallop permit for the *Kamishak Bay District Scallop Management Plan* and would like the ability to sell a portion of the harvest in the live in shell format. We would still have the vessel operator or onboard observer follow the guidelines that 100 scallop top valves must be randomly collected from each trip or during each five day fishing period. The scallop meat shucked to obtain these top valve samples will then be used by the operator or observer using a calibrated scale to estimate what the meat yield would be in the live scallops with high high degree of accuracy. The vessel would then be offloaded in Homer under supervision of an observer or a member of the Alaska Department of

Fish and Game to ensure an accurate piece count. From our market research we have found that live scallops command a much higher value than shucked meat alone. By following this proposal there will be the same number of scallops landed but an attempt to get the most revenue out of a limited resource. The scallops can then be held in an on land holding facility while awaiting to be packed and shipped to the market place.

PROPOSED BY: Thorne Tasker (EF-F17-077)

PROPOSAL 216

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Require participants in the Prince William Sound Area noncommercial shrimp fishery to register with the department prior to May 1, as follows:

Participants in the Prince William Sound non-commercial Spot Prawn Fishery must register prior to May 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Prince William Sound noncommercial spot prawn fishery often exceeds its yearly GHL. Currently there is no tool to give fishery managers the ability to manage to harvest effort in-season. While in-season harvest reporting is the best way to manage this fishery, at this time, adfg staff do not consider it a viable option. I propose a registration deadline of May 1 for participants in this fishery. This would at least give staff a hard number for participants which could be compared to past harvests and CPUE. GHL could then be managed to by season length.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Person (EF-F17-078)

PROPOSAL 217

5 AAC 55.055. Prince William Sound non-commercial shrimp fishery management plan.

Allow for harvest of octopus with additional gear while participating in the Prince William Sound noncommercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

(d) allow for the addition of octopus specific gear on the same line in addition to shrimp pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow for the addition of octopus specific gear on the same line in addition to shrimp pots.

So as to minimize both environmental and financial impacts.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Trent (EF-F17-095)

PROPOSAL 218

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Modify the start date for the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishing season, as follows:

(a) In the waters of the Inside District west of a line from Middle Point at 60° 20.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., north to a point at 60° 40.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., then northeast to the Coast Guard marker light on Goose Island at 60° 42.78' N. lat., 146° 43.63' W. long., to a point on Knowles Head at 60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long., shrimp may be taken from **May 1st** [APRIL 15TH] through September 15th as established by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would be biologically beneficial to shrimp stocks and increase productivity in at least two ways. Firstly, on average April, August and September shrimp pots have a larger percentage of egg bearing females per pot than do shrimp caught in May, June and July. This amendment would allow more females to release their larvae to provide for shrimp production. Secondly, in April fishermen face a larger risk of gear loss which can lead to ghost fishing harming shrimp stocks. The greater risk of gear loss is due to fishing near ice sheets that unpredictably break up and move out of bays. Fishermen have lost large amounts of gear due to ice and that gear will ghostfish for a short while harming shrimp stocks. Gear loss is financially damaging to participants in the fishery and should be addressed if possible. Moving the season back a few weeks could give ice sheets in Prince William Sound such as those in Unakwik, Blackstone Bay, Columbia Bay, Valdez Arm, Port Wells, Port Nellie Juan and Icy Bay more time to break up before fishing commences.

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-096)

PROPOSAL 219

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Modify the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishing season, as follows:

(a) In the waters of the Inside District west of a line from Middle Point at 60° 20.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., north to a point at 60° 40.00' N. lat., 147° W. long., then northeast to the Coast Guard marker light on Goose Island at 60° 42.78' N. lat., 146° 43.63' W. long., to a point on Knowles Head at 60° 41.00' N. lat., 146° 37.50' W. long., shrimp may be taken from **May 1st through August 15th** [APRIL 15TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15TH], as established by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would be biologically beneficial to shrimp stocks and increase productivity in at least two ways. Firstly, on average April, August and September shrimp pots have a larger percentage of egg bearing females per pot than do shrimp caught in May, June and July. This amendment would allow more females to release their larvae to provide for shrimp production. Secondly, in April fisherman face a larger risk of gear loss which can lead to ghost fishing harming shrimp stocks. The greater risk of gear loss is due to fishing near ice sheets that unpredictably break up and move out of bays. Fisherman have lost large amounts of gear due to ice and that gear will ghostfish for a short while harming

shrimp stocks. Gear loss is financially damaging to participants in the fishery and should be addressed if possible. Moving the season back a few weeks could give ice sheets in Prince William Sound such as those in Unakwik, Port Wells, Port Nellie Juan and Icy Bay more time to break up before fishing commences.

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-071)

PROPOSAL 220

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Modify the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishing seasons to separate commercial and noncommercial seasons, as follows:

(a) Shrimp may be taken from October 1st through December 31st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Separate personal use fishery from commercial fishery. This would allow for a winter fishery and not conflict with summer fisheries in PWS. Would coincide with SE commercial shrimp fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Kory Blake (HQ-F17-006)

PROPOSAL 221

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Amend statistical areas included in the three areas fished triennially on a rotating basis in the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

I recommend that the current rotating area system in regulation be changed to a system which allows fishermen each year (if we retain the rotation concept) to have a more or less equal chance of catching the allotted GHL.

An example of how this could be done is as follows: This could be regulated by having certain groups of stat areas open each year of the rotation. These stat areas would not have to be contiguous, and should be grouped together (by catch history and other factors) such that each year's group would provide a more or less equal chance of harvesting the GHL.

This would make for a more stable supply of shrimp available for the abundance of people who can not access the fishery resources otherwise, and rely on the commercial fishery as to get their shrimp.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the 3 rotating area system makes it hard to reliably catch an economic number of shrimp in one of the 3 areas. That has curtailed the effort and the catch, such that the GHL has not been utilized or even approached one out every three years. It makes so that fishermen are not likely to be successful and so that the people who rely on commercially caught shrimp are not very likely to be able to get the amount they need, if any.

This current system also increases fishing pressure on an area that has relatively depressed populations of shrimp, thereby slowing the timeline of it becoming more productive.

PROPOSED BY: Gordon Scott (EF-F17-121)

PROPOSAL 222

5 AAC 31.210. Shrimp pot fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Modify the fishing area rotation system in the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

Prosecute the fishery on an advancing administrative area basis, starting in any one area, then moving to the next and so on until the assessed GHL is obtained.

A solution to leveling out the production during open seasons and lowering the impact to habitat is to limit the duration of targeting the entire GHL in any one area. Annually, Area 1 could be open for a duration of 6 weeks, Area 2 could be fished for a duration of 5 weeks and Area 3 could be fished for a duration of 4 weeks. Each area would be advanced through until the annual GHL is achieved. The starting area in any one year would continue to rotate on a tri-annual basis as it is today. Each succeeding year would start in the next regular area then progress through successive areas during the season as necessary to achieve the GHL as determined by the current management survey from all three areas combined.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations require moving commercial pot shrimp fishing effort between three administrative areas within Prince William Sound on a tri-annual basis. However, GHL is determined by annual surveys conducted across all three areas in total. This total amount allowed for sustainable harvest is not equally distributed across administrative areas. Based on historical CPUE figures from the commercial fishery and current administrative boundaries, the three defined fishing areas have abundance in descending order. Area 1 CPUE averages 2.52 lb/pot, Area 2 averages 1.78 lb/pot, and Area 3 averages 1.10 lb/pot. Area 3 represents the lowest catch rates and abundance within the entire PWS spot shrimp survey area. Yet the current management strategy places undue pressure on stocks in Area 3 every third year, suggesting the entire GHL is available there.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Wilbanks (EF-F17-124)

PROPOSAL 223

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Remove the total allowable harvest threshold for the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

We recommend removing the language of this threshold requirement for a commercial fishery. (Remove the whole first sentence of section 5 AAC 31.214)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The existence of the TAH threshold for a commercial fishery to take place has no biological purpose at all for management of a healthy and sustainable resource. It unfairly penalizes commercial fishermen and the populous that depend on commercial fishermen for access to PWS Shrimp. The commercial fishery is managed in order to be able to catch and not overharvest the allotted GHL. This threshold is simply an allocative issue, punishing the commercial fishery and its beneficiaries unfairly.

An alternative way to solve this allocative penalty on the commercial fishery and its beneficiaries would be to increase the 40% commercial allocation in order to balance the negative effects of the threshold on the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-094)

PROPOSAL 224

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Modify the guideline harvest threshold for the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

Option A:

Allow the fishery to continue to be managed for the 60/40 split at lower Total Allowable harvest levels. Thus evenly sharing the burden of conservation between groups. This is my preferred solution. If needed, a smaller number (for example 80,000lbs) could be a trigger point for closure of both fisheries. This is my preferred solution.

Option B:

Close the fishery entirely for both recreational and commercial fisheries when Total Allowable Harvest is below 110,000 lbs in order to facilitate recovery of the fishery and a return to full fishing for both user groups.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shrimp harvest in Prince William Sound is allocated by the department determining a Total Allowable Harvest and then apportioning on a 60/40 split between the Recreation/Commercial fisheries. However in the case where the TAH is estimated to be less than 110,000 pounds than there is no commercial fishery at all and the entire fishery is allocated to the recreational sector. This is an issue in several ways.

1) This is not an equitable sharing of the burden of conservation. In fact it is not a sharing at all. One user group bears the entirety of it. Furthermore the burden of conservation is supposed between allocative groups in proportion to the groups impact on the resource and in this case the group that has at MOST 40% (in fact lower) of the total harvest is bearing 100% of the burden. In fact in times of conservation this effectively RAISES the allowable harvest for one user group while eliminating all opportunity for the other.

2) This denies access to the resource in years of lower abundance to thousands of Alaskans. This is not a staple food source "fill your freezer" sort of personal use fishery. It is a fairly exclusive, expensive to participate recreational fishery. The vast majority of the commercial harvest is sold

in state largely through small direct market operations, and the commercial fishery is the only access most of the population has to this amazing product.

3) In years of low abundance it denies crucial population data to the department. In contrast to the recreational fishery which has significant issues with post-season reporting and a lack of direct management, the commercial fishery is strictly regulated with extensive in-season reporting and logbook requirements. There is not issues with going over harvest quotas in the commercial fishery and it provides a very good indice as to the health of the resource.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that this has not come in to effect in the 7 years the fishery has operated since its re-opening, but it was almost an issue in 2016 and seems appropriate to address it before it actual occurs since the impact on the small, fragile, commercial fishery would be disastrous.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Person (EF-F17-119)

PROPOSAL 225

5 AAC 31.214. Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E.

Increase the commercial allocation of the total allowable harvest in the Prince William Sound Area shrimp pot fishery, as follows:

Change the currently unbalanced allocation which favors a small minority of resource users. Regulation language would read,

"The guideline harvest level for the commercial pot gear fishery in the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) is **60** percent of the total allowable harvest for the area."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 31.214 Shrimp pot guideline harvest level for Registration Area E

The guideline harvest level for the commercial pot gear fishery in the waters described in 5 AAC 31.210(a) is 40 percent of the total allowable harvest for the area [Prince William Sound].

This regulation allocates 60% of the TAH to sport fishing interests, which represents 1% of the users of this resource. Commercial fishermen supply this resource to other consumers, which represent the other 99% of the individual Alaskans who want to enjoy the shrimp, but do not own a boat nor catch for themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Wilbanks (EF-F17-125)

PROPOSAL 226

5 AAC 31.235. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

Reduce closed waters in the Prince William Sound Area commercial shrimp trawl fishery, as follows:

Remove Number 1 from the list of closed waters in Registration Area E, to the taking of shrimp with trawl gear.

[(1) WATERS ENCLOSED BY A LINE FROM POINT WHITSHEDE TO POINT BENTINCK, A LINE FROM CAPE HINCHINBROOK LIGHT TO SEAL ROCKS LIGHT TO ZAIKOF POINT AT 60_ 18.48' N. LAT., 146_ 55.10' W. LONG., AND BY A LINE FROM A POINT AT 60_ 11.00' N. LAT., 147_ 20.00' W. LONG. ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF MONTAGUE ISLAND, NORTH TO A POINT AT 60_ 30.00' N. LAT., 147_ 20.00' W. LONG., THEN EAST TO A POINT AT 60_ 30.00' N. LAT., 147_ 00.00' W. LONG., THEN NORTHEAST TO KNOWLES HEAD AT 60_ 41.00' N. LAT., 146_ 37.50' W. LONG.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses current closed area waters for taking of trawl shrimp. Removal of this closed water area will update and address concerns regarding an unnecessary closure for shrimp trawling. By opening the area noted in 5 AAC 31.235 (1), an improved understanding of the trawl shrimp population stocks will be understood. This area does not have population concentrations of Tanner crab that could be affected by the opening.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Van Hying (HQ-F17-082)

PROPOSAL 227

5 AAC 31.211. Shrimp trawl fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Repeal Prince William Sound Area commercial winter shrimp trawl fishery fishing season provisions allowing a fall/winter fishery, as follows:

In Registration Area E, shrimp may be taken with trawls only from April 15 through August 15 [AND FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change in regulation is needed to protect egg female shrimp that have not released into the water column until approximately April 1. This change in shrimp trawling season will help to maintain recruitment for the species.

PROPOSED BY: Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-091)

