

**PROPOSAL 185**

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

Allow the use of artificial lights as an attractant when taking squid., as follows:

Adopt a new subsection of 5 AAC 47.035 Methods, means and general provisions – Finfish, to wit: (b) **(8) Squid may be taken with the aid of artificial lights.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In recent years, Market Squid (*Doryteutis Opalescens*) have established a presence in Southeast Alaska and they have become a desirable species to catch for both human consumption and for use as bait. There are currently no regulations that specifically cover the taking of market squid, (i.e. no closed seasons and no bag limits). A common method to take squid in other western states is to utilize artificial lights to attract them. Since there is no law specifically allowing the use of artificial lights, local Wildlife Troopers, when encountering squid anglers, have been issuing warnings for using lights to take squid. I believe that allowing the use of artificial lights when taking squid will increase the opportunity for anglers to take advantage of this resource without doing it any harm. To support this opinion, in October of 2019, Mr. Ben Burford (doctoral candidate at Stanford University) gave a lecture at UAS Sitka Campus on the new market squid presence in Southeast Alaska. He has been studying the migration of these squid to our waters for the last several years. During the Q/A portion of his lecture, I specifically asked him if there was any level of rod and reel take of market squid that would harm their numbers in SE Alaska. He didn't hesitate in saying that there was no way that such a fishery could harm the market squid resource here.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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