

**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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