

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 of 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)

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.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (HQ-F17-059)
