PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.

Reopen the personal use shrimp fishery in Section 11-A, as follows:

Reopen 11A to personal use. It was closed in 2013 with an old shrimp survey from 2007.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 11A shrimp: the department is saying 11A is the same as Tenakee Inlet. That is a big commercial inlet for shrimp and is 60 miles south from 11A.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-002)

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PROPOSAL 76

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

Establish mesh size requirements for Southeast Alaska Area sport fishing shrimp pots, as follows:

I recommend the board impose a minimum mesh size for sport shrimp pots in southeast Alaska, both netted and rigid, equal to the sport fish regulations already in place describing legal gear of shrimp pots in southcentral Alaska as follows. This is a direct copy and paste from southcentral sportfish shellfish regulations. Under this regulation, rigid sport shrimp pots must have a mesh opening of 7/8 inch square inside measurement.

Shrimp pot requirement:

- Two vertical sides of all shrimp pots must be made entirely of webbing big enough to allow a 7⁄8-inch round wooden dowel to go through without stretching or otherwise deforming the opening.
- The two vertical sides must touch each other and cannot be covered by anything.
- The other two sides, top, bottom, and tunnels may be composed of any material.
- The 7⁄8-inch size allows undersize and juvenile shrimp to escape.

A shrimp pot with no definable sides, such as a round pot, must have 50% of its vertical surface area covered with 7⁄8-inch webbing. The other 50% of its vertical sides, as well as its top and bottom, may be composed of any material.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are no restrictions in place regarding mesh size of shrimp pots for sport fishing in southeast Alaska to allow juvenile shrimp to escape.

Due to a trend in declining shrimp stocks and closures of several areas in southeast Alaska to sport and commercial use, it would seem to be a logical and responsible action to impose a minimum mesh size on sport shrimp pots to allow the escapement of juvenile shrimp. With no mesh restrictions in place, extremely young shrimp are harvested without a method for them to escape, facilitating the decline of this resource.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Woodrow (EF-F17-013)

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PROPOSAL 77

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

Amend shellfish methods and means and rescind unnecessary abalone regulations, as follows:

5 AAC 47.035 is amended to read:

(b) Shellfish may be taken [ONLY] as **provided in 5 AAC 75.035 or as** follows:

(1) **Repealed / /** [SHRIMP MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS AND RING NETS];

(2) **Repealed / /** [CRAB MAY BE TAKEN BY POTS, RING NETS, DIVING GEAR, DIP NETS, AND HOOKED OR HOOKLESS HAND LINES];

(3) **Repealed / /** [CLAMS MAY BE TAKEN BY RAKES, SHOVELS, OR MANUALLY OPERATED CLAM GUNS];

(4) **Repealed / /** [ABALONE MAY BE TAKEN BY ABALONE IRONS, DIVING GEAR, OR BY HAND, EXCEPT THAT A DIVER USING A COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEM, SUCH AS SCUBA OR HOOKAH, MAY NOT TAKE ABALONE];

(5) scallops may be taken by diving gear, dip nets, or by hand;

(6) shellfish not otherwise specified in this chapter maybe taken by hook and line in addition to all gear specified in (b) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations for the sport harvest of shrimp, crab and clams in Southeast Alaska are redundant with statewide regulations.

In 2012, the abalone sport fishery was closed making abalone methods and means regulations under this section unnecessary.

In Southeast Alaska all shellfish species not listed within 5 AAC 47.020 have no bag possession, annual, or size limits (5 AAC 47.020(18)). However, the methods and means by which these unlisted species may be harvested are not defined in sport fishing regulations. Adding section (6) would identify the gear that may be used to harvest shellfish species for which there is no bag, possession, or size limits. This situation most commonly applies to the harvest of squid and octopus.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-125)

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PROPOSAL 78

5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections, and 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.

Add sections for Districts 6, 8, and 10 and provide shrimp fishery guideline harvest ranges for the new areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.105(f) is amended to read:

(f) District 6: waters of Clarence Strait that are north of a line running from Narrow Point **(55° 47.45′ N. lat., 132° 28.57′ W. long.)** to Lemesurier Point **(55° 46.02′ N. lat., 132° 16.93′ W. long.)**, to Ernest Point **(55° 51.00′ N. lat., 132° 22.21′ W. long.)**, [AND ENDING AT] **to** the

most southerly point on Etolin Island **(55° 54.79′ N. lat., 132° 21.24′ W. long.)**, [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] south of the latitude of Round Point **(56° 16.65′ N. lat.)**, [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait [THAT ARE] west of a line from Point Alexander **(56° 30.54′ N. lat., 132° 56.94′ W. long.)** to Low Point **(56° 27.18′ N. lat., 132° 57.17′ W long.)**, and [THAT ARE] east of a line from Point Baker **(56° 21.52′ N. lat., 133° 37.58′ W. long.)** to Point Barrie **(56° 26.18′ N. lat., 133° 39.27′ W. long.)**, [WATERS OF] Wrangell Narrows [THAT ARE] south and west of a line [RUNNING] from Prolewy Point **(56° 50.12′ N. lat., 132° 56.45′ W. long.)** to the northern tip of Mitkof Island **(56° 49.38′ N. lat., 132° 56.31′ W. long.)**, and **all** waters of Duncan Canal[.]**;**

(**1) Section 6-A: waters north of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17′ N. lat., 133° 11.90′ W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85′ N. lat., 133° 04.00′ W. long.), west of a line from the tip of Low Point (56° 27.18′ N. lat., 132° 57.17′ W long.) to the tip of Point Alexander (56° 30.54′ N. lat., 132° 56.94′ W. long.) and east of a line from the tip of Point Barrie (56° 26.18′ N. lat., 133° 39.27′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Baker (56° 21.52′ N. lat., 133° 37.58′ W. long.);**

(2) Section 6-B: waters south of a line from the tip of Point Colpoys (56° 20.17′ N. lat., 133° 11.90′ W. long.) to the tip of Macnamara Point (56° 19.85′ N. lat., 133° 04.00′ W. long.), north and west of a line from the tip of Luck Point (55° 59.04′ N. lat., 132 44.07′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Stanhope (56° 00.69′ N. lat., 132° 36.46′ W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40′ N. lat., 132° 41.85′ W. long.) to Key Reef Light (56° 09.61′ N. lat., 132° 49.78′ W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light (56° 13.22′ N. lat., 132° 51.83′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt (56° 13.92′ N. lat., 132° 52.32′ W. long.);

(3) Section 6-C: waters enclosed by a line from Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40′ N. lat., 132° 41.85′ W. long.) to the westernmost point of Screen Islands (56° 05.60′ W. lat., 132' 42.61′ W. long) to the westernmost point of Marsh Island (56° 06.98′ N. lat., 132° 43.20' W. long.) to the westernmost point of Steamer Rocks (56° 08.41 N. lat., 132° 43.64′ W. long.) to Mariposa Rock Buoy (56° 10.67′ N. lat., 132° 44.35′ W. long.) to the tip of Point Nesbitt 56° 13.92′ N. lat., 132° 52.32′ W. long.) to Nesbitt Reef Light to Key Reef Light (56° 13.22′ N. lat., 132° 51.83′ W. long.) to Lincoln Rock Light (56° 03.40′ N. lat., 132° 41.85′ W. long.);

(4) Section 6-D: all other waters of the district.

5 AAC 31.105(h) is amended to read:

(h) District 8: waters of Frederick Sound that are south of a line running from Wood Point **(56° 59.47′ N. lat., 132° 56.97′ W. long.)** to Beacon Point (**56° 56.36′ N. lat., 132° 59.74′ W. long.,** [BUT NOT INCLUDING] **excluding** Wrangell Narrows**)**, [WATERS OF] Sumner Strait [THAT ARE] east of a line [RUNNING] from Point Alexander **(56° 30.54′ N. lat., 132° 56.94′ W. long.)** to Low Point **(56° 27.18′ N. lat., 132° 57.17′ W long.)**, [WATERS OF] Stikine Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Round Point **(56° 16.65′ N. lat.)**, [WATERS OF] Zimovia Strait [THAT ARE] north of the latitude of Nemo Point **(56° 22.97′ N. Lat., 132° 24.28′ W. long.)**, and [WATERS OF] Eastern Passage [THAT ARE] west of a line [RUNNING] from Hour Point (56° 27.80′ N. lat., 132° 16.63′ W. long.) to Babbler Point **(56° 29.08′ W. lat., 132° 17.36′ W. long.)**.

(1) Section 8-A: the waters of the district north of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06′ N. lat., 132° 32.54′ W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62′ N. lat., 132° 13.12′ W. long.);

(2) Section 8-B: the waters of the district south of a line from Blaquiere Point (56° 35.06′ N. lat., 132° 32.54′ W. long.) to Kakwan Point (56° 41.62′ N. lat., 132° 13.12′ W. long.).

5 AAC 31.105(j) is amended to read:

(j) District 10: [WATERS OF] Frederick Sound**,** [and of] Stephens Passage, **and contiguous waters [**THAT ARE] north of a line from Beacon Point **(56° 56.36′ N. lat., 132° 59.74′ W. long.)** to Wood Point **(56° 59.47′ N. lat., 132° 56.97′ W. long.)**, east of a line from Point Macartney **(57° 01.49′ N. lat., 134° 03.51′ W. long.)** to the southern tip of Elliott Island **(57° 15.20′ N. lat., 134° 03.72′ W. long.)**, [AND] north of the latitude of the southern tip of Elliott Island **(57° 15.20′ N. lat., 134° 03.72′ W. long.)**, [WATERS OF] Seymour Canal [THAT ARE] south of 57°37′ N. lat., and [WATERS OF STEPHENS PASSAGE THAT ARE] south of a line [RUNNING] from Point League **(57° 37.76′ N. lat., 133° 40.47′ W. long.)** to Point Hugh **(57° 34.21′ N. lat., 133° 48.58′ W. long.)**.

(1) Section 10-A: waters of the district west of line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90′ N. lat., 133° 53.40′ W. long.) to 57° 12.60′ N. lat., 133° 53′ W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10′ N. lat., 133° 51.79′ W. long.)., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40′ N. lat., 133° 39.28′ W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10′ N. lat., 133° 52.55′ W. long.), to 57° 36′ N. lat., 133° 44.76′ W. long.;

(2) Section 10-B: waters of the district north of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90′ N. lat., 133° 53.40′ W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12′ N. lat., 133° 35.40′ W. long.) and east of line from Pinta Point to 57° 12.60′ N. lat., 133° 53′ W. long., to a point on the line extending from Pinta Point to False Point Pybus (57° 22.10′ N. lat., 133° 51.79′ W. long.)., to the northernmost tip of Akusha Island (57° 18.40′ N. lat., 133° 39.28′ W. long.) to McDonald Rock light (57° 25.10′ N. lat., 133° 52.55′ W. long.), to 57° 36′ N. lat., 133°44.76′ W. long.;

(3) Section 10-C: waters of the district east of a line from Pinta Point (57° 05.90′ N. lat., 133° 53.40′ W. long.) to Cape Fanshaw (57° 11.12′ N. lat., 133° 35.40′ W. long.);

5 AAC 31.115(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) District 6: [0 – 82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 6-B, 6-C, and 6-D combined: 0–60,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5 AAC 31.115(a)(8) is amended to read:

(8) District 8: [0 – 28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 8-A and 10-C combined: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

(B) Sections 8-B and 6-A combined: 0–25,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

5 AAC 31.115(a)(10) is amended to read:

(10) District 10: [0 – 58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;]

(A) Sections 10-A and 10-B combined: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial pot shrimp fishing areas were originally determined using salmon fishing districts and sections. District 8 encompasses two separate water bodies (Frederick Sound and Sumner Strait) that are divided by Mitkof Island. The shrimp stocks in these two water bodies are separate and are closer linked to portions of Districts 6 and 10. This proposal would separate District 8 and combine the separated portions to portions of districts 6 and 10. The result will be all of eastern Frederick Sound will be managed as one area and all of eastern Sumner Strait will be managed as another area, thereby allowing the department to better manage shrimp populations in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-113)

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PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing seasons and periods for Registration Area A and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Repeal winter commercial shrimp fishery and modify fishing season for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery to avoid egg bearing shrimp, as follows:

Open the shrimp commercial fishing in April after the shrimp have got eggs hatch.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the commercial shrimp opening from October when most shrimp have eggs.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-001)

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PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel, limit the number of pots per string and pot spacing, and limit gear to one operation cycle per day in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

Limit shrimp pot gear as follows:

1. Small pots:
    a. Reduce the maximum limit of small pots from 140 to 100 per license;
    b. Limit each string to be comprised of 4 pots only, 25 string max;
    c. Pots must be 15 fathoms apart on a string.
2. Large pots:
    a. Reduce the maximum limit of large pots from 100 to 75 per license;
    b. Limits each string to be comprised of 3 pots only, 25 string max;
    c. Pots must be 20 fathoms apart on a string.
3. In addition to the pot limits described above, single pot deployment would not be allowed;
4. Gear would be limited to one pull per day, from 8am to 4pm.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Standardization and reduction of shrimp pot gear.

Currently the pot shrimp fishery is much like a derby fishery, with most districts open less than one month in order to prevent overfishing. This proposal would provide better control by managers and allow longer openings. Managers would be able to more accurately determine how much linear coverage is being fished in a district at any time.

PROPOSED BY: Don Westlund (HQ-F17-088)

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PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 31.126. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31. 141. Logboooks.

Allow commercial shrimp pots in the Southeastern Alaska Area to be pulled only one time per day, as follows:

The solution is to limit the number of times a pot can be picked to once a day by adding a new regulation to 5 AAC 31.124. To be successful, several other regulations would need to change. First, limit the number of buoys each boat may have in the water to 20 in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Second, each set of pots must have a buoy on each end with an identifying set number that will be used in the logbook, also in 5 AAC 31.126(c). Third, the time, latitude and longitude when each set is picked and set should be recorded in a daily logbook in ink, which would be a new regulation in 5 AAC 31.124. This would result in boats fishing longer sets and no more than 10 sets per boat. By boats hauling longer sets and documenting when they haul them, enforcement would be easily accomplished. When considering these regulation changes, also consider: 1) only minor changes would occur to gear; 2) the importance of estimating number of pot lifts in ADF&G's attempt to calculate daily production; 3) reduction in fleet efficiency and prolonging the season length; 4) reduction in the occurrence of stock depletion; 5) the possibility of more hours to work gear daily; 6) reduction of the number of undersize shrimp harvested or disturbed; 7) the only other change that could be made to protect small shrimp is to look at a minimum size for retention.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial pot shrimp fishermen are allowed to pick their pots multiple times a day. This practice adversely affects shrimp stocks and managers ability to accurately assess effort levels. The need for a single daily lift of shrimp gear has been discussed with knowledge that short soaks will yield a larger percentage of small shrimp. This practice hurts the long term health of shrimp stocks. The most often stated objection is that a single pick regulation cannot be enforced. However, the Canadian fishery is proof that it can be done.

PROPOSED BY: James E. Smith (EF-F17-010)

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PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close the Section 11-A commercial shrimp fishery, as follows:

Keep unit 11A to personal use shrimp fishing as is.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close commercial shrimp in Unit 11A. There were two fishermen who tried this unit and didn't find good shrimp to keep fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko (HQ-F17-003)
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PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A and 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters of Section 11-A to commercial fishing for shrimp and red king crab, as follows:

The commercial fishery for red king crab and spot shrimp in 11-A should be abolished.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial fishing in 11-A for red king crab and shrimp. Historic lack of personal use fisheries after a commercial opening

There always was an abundance of crab and shrimp to support a personal use fishery in 11-A. each time there was a commercial opening the stocks were decimated which resulted in very lengthy closures. I commercial fished westward and kodiak for twenty years and realize that it is a wonderful way to make a living-we are only asking for a small piece of these fisheries for personal use-most personal use fisherman are only active for a few months and would barely touch the stocks that have by now rebuilt. The crab and shrimp surveys have been very inconclusive and areas of abundant crab/shrimp are often overlooked. the computer models can easily be wrong and there should be in place a way to log and document our sport effort to help with research. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Gallant (EF-F17-118)
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PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close additional waters in District 2 to commercial pot shrimp fishing, as follows:

(4) Shrimp may not be taken: in the waters of Kasaan Bay north and west of a line from the northern most tip of Daisy Island located at 55'28.816'N lat, 132'19.379"W long. northeast to a point on Kasaan Penisula located at 55'30.533'N lat, 132'18.191'W, including all waters of Twelve-mile Arm;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ~~The 2013 October commercial shrimp season for District 2 has left the personal use shrimpers with low shrimp biomass. District 2 is a large area; however the commercial fishing fleet focused their efforts in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm in 2013 which are adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan. Both areas were hard to navigate during the fishery from the large amount of commercial gear. After the 2013 commercial season, personal use fishermen had a hard time

locating shrimp in the waters of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm. When shrimp was harvested, the numbers of them caught, and continue today in the single digits and small in size. The area used to receive moderate personal use fishing pressure through-out the year from residents of Prince of Wales Island as well as Ketchikan. Prince of Wales has a large population of subsistence / personal use users who rely on the land and ocean to feed their families. The island has a high cost of living with a financially depressed economy. ADF&G held a 2014 commercial shrimp season; however they closed Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm after a period where the commercial fishermen were catching very low numbers for the effort they put in to the fishery. Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm remained closed for the 2015 and 2016 commercial shrimp seasons by emergency order due to a low biomass. The personal use fishermen have exhausted most of their efforts and express they will continue their efforts when the shrimp catch rate equals the financial burden of fuel and operation costs. Currently the shrimp biomass is harvested commercially in October while the female shrimp contain eggs and is marketed to an overseas market. This commercial closure of Kasaan Bay and Twelve-mile Arm is a small percentage of District 2 which runs the eastern shores of Prince of Wales Island south of Narrow Point and north of the US/Canadian border. This area includes all waters of bays and sounds on Prince of Wales Island on the eastern shore, south of Narrow Point. The large commercial vessels can easily navigate these areas open to commercial shrimping and away from the communities of Hollis and Kasaan who rely on a subsistence lifestyle to exist.

A regulation closure of the area to commercial shrimping would protect a relatively small percentage of District 2 to allow personal use fishermen to utilize the resource. Ketchikan personal use fishermen would benefit from closed commercial shrimp area as buoys in the Kasaan Bay are routinely observed with Ketchikan addresses. The area selected for the closure is in close proximity to the community of Hollis and village of Kasaan. Both places have harbors and boat launches which are utilized by all residents of Prince of Wales Island with small vessels. Commercial vessels would still be able to fish District 2 in waters not directly adjacent to the communities of Hollis and Kasaan.

PROPOSED BY: Hollis Community Council Inc. (EF-F17-021)

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PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp beam trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A.

Expand current beam trawl shrimp fishery logbook requirement to cover all fishing areas, as follows:

5 AAC 31.111 (a) (3) is amended to read:

(a) In Registration Area A, **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. Shrimp** [SHRIMP] may be taken by beam trawls only as follows:

…

(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 132º 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)

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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 SARDFA 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 SARDFA sea cucumber divers GHL.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-066)

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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:

…

(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 (SARDFA) 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.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The status quo remains. Possible increase in the sea cucumber GHL would not happen.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? At this time we have not considered other solutions. It may be possible to adjust each individual area, but there is no information available showing personnel use sea cucumber harvest within these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-067)
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PROPOSAL 88

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial sea cucumber fishery, as follows:

(h) M = 0.32 estimated instantaneous mortality rate for sea cucumbers; P = virgin population size, taken as the **mid-point** (lower bound) of the one sided 90 percent confidence interval.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the sea cucumber fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The GHL would still be managed at lower levels, especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the population regardless if the lower or mid-point is used.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? It is possible to discuss this on an area by area basis. SARDFA believes in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population the extremely conservative management of the lower bound of the confidence level is not necessary.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-068)
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PROPOSAL 89

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial geoduck fishery, as follows:

(g) The guideline harvest level for each area will be calculated as two percent of the most recent estimated biomass, **using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval**, per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the geoduck clam fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery.

What would happen if nothing is changed? There would remain annual confusion as to whether ADF&G is managing for the lower end of the confidence level or the mid-point.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? It is possible to discuss on an annual basis the department's management goal, however SARDFA believes this would eliminate any confusion on how the fishery is being managed.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-064)

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PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Open previously non-surveyed fishing areas to a limited commercial harvest of geoducks without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey, as follows:

(g)(1) The department may open for commercial harvest areas that have not been surveyed in order to identify areas that may have commercially viable geoduck beds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to work with ADF&G in opening new geoduck clam areas in Southeast Alaska. Geoduck beds are difficult and expensive for ADF&G to survey and open. SARDFA would like for ADF&G to open areas that have not been surveyed to identify where commercially viable beds might be. If after a small controlled fishery it is determined there is a commercially viable geoduck bed ADF&G would do an official assessment survey and establish a Guideline Harvest Level for future years.

What would happen if nothing is changed? Status quo remains and it becomes more difficult and expensive to expand the geoduck fishery.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? ADF&G or SARDFA could do exploratory dives to locate beds, but this is expensive and unreliable for both ADF&G and SARDFA.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-065)

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PROPOSAL 91

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Establish a weekly geoduck harvest limit of 1,000 pounds per diver in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

(n) A calendar weekly limit of 1,000 lbs. of geoduck clams harvested and landed per licensed geoduck clam diver is imposed. The calendar week begins on Monday night 12:01 am AST and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 pm AST. A 10% overage is allowed with the sale of the overage deposited in a separate ADFG account which will be used to offset the annual ADFG operating budget for the management of this fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The geoduck clam fishery is a small and unique fishery. These large clams are individually harvested by divers. They are harvested, transported and delivered to overseas markets **alive**. Geoducks clams have a limited "shelf life" and the difference in value between a dead, processed clam and a live clam is large. Almost unbelievably so, the difference can be $1.50/lb. compared to $15/lb. Our manner of fishing, a 6 hour "free for all," damages the value of our resource and damages Alaska reputation as a leader in high quality seafood.

The problems associated with our current fishery regime have been endemic in our industry for more than a decade. We routinely overwhelm air cargo and its capacity to timely deliver this product to its destination. We overwhelm the boxing facilities and purchasers capacity to effectively transport and sell this live clam due to the production uncertainties of a "free for all" fishery. Every other North American jurisdiction that has a geoduck clam fishery has imposed trip limits, individual fishing quotas, individual vessel quotas or marketing quotas to address the price differential between live and processed and between market demand and supply. The overseas markets demand and will pay top dollar for high quality product. As long as the harvest operates with the understanding, this is a highly perishable product that commands a premium price when intelligently marketed. By imposing these limits, other than a simple time limit, the fishermen, achieve prices that can be **4 to 10 times** greater and not create market disruptions.

These numbers make a tremendous difference in the overall value of our fishery and the fish tax paid to Alaska. We have written into regulation that this is a "live market" fishery because of the substantial market value increase associated with this harvest strategy. This increased value is tremendously important since we self-fund our fishery through SARDFA. This is an important point, the fishermen, pay for the cost of this fishery. The cost does not come out of the General fund. We have substantial costs associated with the required DEC annual water quality testing, the DEC's weekly PSP testing per area and the ADFG's administrative and survey budget required to open our fishery. There have been prices paid for our harvest that do not meet these costs and it has been a continual struggle since this fishery's establishment to meet these ongoing and ever increasing regulatory costs.

This proposal seeks to eliminate the other factors in the fishery that contribute to our low prices and poor market reputation. Beyond the desire for intelligent marketing is another and graver concern regarding diver safety. Geoduck clams do not move, most of the beds with the "faster digging" are known to the divers. ADFG's directing a fishery by time, contributes to overcrowding of vessels and divers on these "better" areas with diver entanglements and physical altercations a routine occurrence. By spreading out the harvest time and placing a weekly trip limit on the fishermen the necessity of these unsafe practices will be greatly reduced. Why is that? There are many beds that are small with lower densities or deeper which limit a diver's productivity which

aren't utilized due to this "free for all" fishery. This may have the corollary effect in giving ADFG more bed information through our logbook program and the potential to possibly increase quotas via the addition of new beds.

PROPOSED BY: Cornelis "Casey" Bakker (EF-F17-072)
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PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 38.168. Guideline harvest range for the taking of scallops in Registration Area D.

Remove guideline harvest range for District 16 scallops and set one guideline harvest range for all of Scallop Registration Area D, as follows:

In Scallop Registration Area D, described in 5 AAC 38.076(b) (2), the guideline harvest range for the taking of weathervane scallops is ~~as follows:~~ 0 - 285,000 pounds of shucked meats
~~(1) in District 16 as described in 5 AAC 33.200(p) : zero - 35,000 pounds of shucked meat;~~
~~(2) in the remainder of Scallop Registration Area D: zero - 250,000 pounds of shucked meat.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Combine scallop areas Area D and Area 16. Scallop beds cross the line separating these two areas making it difficult to harvest and manage.

Area 16 can be an unpredictable area for fishing scallops. Some years catch rates and meats are too small, while other years catch rates are quite good and meats larger, making this a difficult area to manage, fish and plan for year to year.

If there was Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) encompassing both areas, fishermen would go to areas of higher catch rates whether in Area D or 16 and not fish in an area of lower catch rates just because there was a GHL set in there. Fishermen if allowed naturally will tend to fish in areas of highest catch rates, therefore this regulation change would help avoid needless localized depletion in areas of low catch rates.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-F17-023)
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PROPOSAL 93

5 AAC 38.1XX. Southeastern Alaska Area Squid Fishery.

Establish a commercial fishery for squid, using purse seine gear, in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

I recommend the State of Alaska start a directed purse seine fishery for Market Squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) in Registration Area A Southeastern Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a growing population of Market Squid (*Doryteuthis opalescens*) in Registration Area A coastal waters. Market Squid is harvested in directed purse seine fisheries along the west coast of the United States, primarily in

Oregon and California. Wholesale values for Market Squid can reach as high as $3,500mt on lean harvest years and in over supply years range between $1,400mt- $1,600mt. This economic opportunity is going untouched in Coastal Alaska.

The northern range of Market Squid is likely expanding due to Pacific Ocean warming. It is known the warming ocean and acidification will negatively affect some economically important species (e.g. crab, shellfish), and therefore the State should be proactive and encourage the development of new fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Justin Peeler (EF-F17-097)

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