

King Crab

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 34.210. Fishing seasons, for Registration Area E, 5 AAC 34.217. Guideline harvest range for Registration Area E, 5 AAC 34.225. Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

Amend Registration Area E king crab fishing seasons, guideline harvest level (GHL), and lawful gear regulations, as follows:

Amend the current regulations for king crab in area E to read as follows:

5 AAC 34.210 Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

(a) The commercial taking of Red King crab and Blue King crab in registration area E is closed until these stocks have recovered enough for a harvest strategy to be developed by the department and adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

(b) Golden King crab may be taken from January 15 through March 15 only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner

5 AAC 34.17 Guideline harvest range for Registration Area E.

The Guideline harvest range for Golden King crab is 0-60,000 lbs. The guideline harvest level shall be set annually by the department based on estimated abundance levels.

5 AAC 34.255 Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

(a) King crab may only be taken with King crab pots as defined in 34.050

(b) The overall pot limit for the Golden King crab commercial fishery is 200 pots.

(c) For the Golden King crab commercial fishery, the vessel pot limit will be determined by dividing the overall pot limit (200) by the number of vessels registered for the fishery with a maximum vessel pot limit of 15 pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I would like to address it that there has been no season for Golden King crab in over thirty years. There has been no survey done in 15 years. We need to conduct a small scale commercial fishery to assess stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Linville

(EF-F20-123)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 34.210. Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Establish a fishing season for golden king crab in Registration Area E, as follows:

Amend the current regulations for king crab in area E to read as follows:

5 AAC 34.210 Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

(a) The commercial taking of red king crab and blue king crab in registration area E is closed until these stocks have recovered enough for a harvest strategy to be developed by the department and adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

(b) Golden king crab may be taken from January 15 through March 15 only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations do not differentiate between red, blue, and golden king crab, and prohibit all commercial king crab fishing within Prince William Sound. There is no regulatory framework in place for a golden king crab fishery specifically.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United

(HQ-F20-013)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 34.2XX. New section.

Establish a department-issued permit for the commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area E, as follows:

We propose establishing guidance for the issuance of a commissioner's permit for golden king crab in regulation. Create new regulation for golden king crab in area E to read as follows:

5 AAC 34.2XX Commissioner's Permits for Golden King Crab

(a) In Prince William Sound, male golden king crab, seven inches or greater in carapace width, may be taken only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.

(b) Only pot gear may be used and no more than 15 king crab pots may be operated from a vessel.

(c) The permit required in this section

(1) may specify season dates;

(2) may specify areas of fishing operations by district or by geographic location;

(3) may require an onboard observer during all operations;

(4) shall require mandatory completion of log sheets provided by the department; log sheets described in this section must

(A) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of pots fished, the average depth of each pot fished, and the time gear is deployed and removed from the water of each set;

(B) include for the target and each bycatch species the number of fish retained and discarded;

(C) be updated within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation;

(D) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request;

(E) be submitted with the corresponding fish ticket at the time of landing;

(5) may set other conditions the commissioner determines are necessary for conservation and management purposes.

(d) A person may not make a false entry in the log sheets described in this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no regulatory guidance for issuing commissioner’s permits for golden king crab.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (HQ-F20-014)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 34.217. Guideline harvest range for Registration Area E.

Amend guideline harvest range for golden king crab in Registration Area E, as follows:

Amend the current regulations for king crab in area E to read as follows:

5 AAC 34.217 Guideline harvest range for Registration Area E.

The guideline harvest range for golden king crab is 0-60,000 pounds. The guideline harvest level shall be set annually by the department based on estimated abundance levels.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The existing GHR does not allow the department to prosecute a golden king crab fishery of less than 40,000 pounds.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (HQ-F20-015)

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 34.225. Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

Establish a golden king pot limit in Registration Area E, as follows:

Amend the current regulations for king crab in area E to read as follows:

5 AAC 34.255 Lawful gear for Registration area E.

(a) King crab may only be taken with king crab pots as defined in 34.050.

(b) The overall pot limit for the golden king crab commercial fishery is 200 pots.

(c) For the golden king crab commercial fishery, the vessel pot limit will be determined by dividing the overall pot limit (200) by the number of vessels registered for the fishery with a maximum vessel pot limit of 15 pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is no set pot limit in regulation for a fishery or for vessels participating. Adding a pot limit in regulation will allow the department more control in management of the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United

(HQ-F20-016)
