

**PROPOSAL 208**

**5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.**

Close waters in Kasaan Bay to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

5 AAC 32.150(#) waters of Kasaan Bay north of a line that stretches from Adams Point located at 55°32.921'N lat., 132°26.426'W long, to Mound Point located at 55°34.508'N lat., 132°33.957'W long.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Kasaan have continued to see an increased presence of commercial Dungeness crab fisherman in Kasaan Bay. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet has seen an increased in sea otters in other areas of Southeast Alaska and very low numbers of Dungeness crab in those areas. During the summer of 2019, a sea otter was observed for the first time in Kasaan Bay. A small increase to the area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially will continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet would not be impacted by this small closed fishing area.

**PROPOSED BY:** East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-079)

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