

PROPOSAL 275

5 AAC 39.143. Onboard observer certification and decertification.

Extend the observer certification expiration period from 12 months to 18 months, as follows:

5 AAC 39.143 is amended to read:

5 AAC 39.143. Onboard observer certification and decertification.

(i) An onboard observer certification expires as follows:

(1) for a **shellfish** [CRAB] observer who has not functioned as a **shellfish** [CRAB] onboard observer for **18** [12] consecutive months, the onboard observer certification expires; to become recertified after **18** [12] consecutive months of not functioning as a **shellfish** [CRAB] observer, a person must successfully complete all trainee and certification requirements set out in (a), (b), (c), (e), and (f) of this section;

[2) FOR A SCALLOP OBSERVER WHO HAS NOT FUNCTIONED AS A CRAB ONBOARD OBSERVER FOR 12 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, THE ONBOARD OBSERVER CERTIFICATION EXPIRES; TO BECOME RECERTIFIED AFTER 12 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS OF NOT FUNCTIONING AS A CRAB OBSERVER, A PERSON MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE ALL TRAINEE AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN (A), (B), (C), (E), AND (F) OF THIS SECTION;] **Repealed;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Certified observer retention remains low due to unpredictability in shellfish fisheries and short seasonal duration. Lack of flexibility for observer provider companies to deploy observers across fisheries and observer programs throughout the year also contributes to certified observers leaving the shellfish observer program to pursue more predictable and stable employment.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-174)
