

Crab

PROPOSAL 190

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan and 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Amend the Red King Crab Management Plan to include trip limits and equal share quotas when harvestable surplus is below threshold, as follows:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan

(c) Until January 24, 2027, the department shall open the fishery as an equal permit share if the department's estimate of the available harvestable surplus is below 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab. The department shall determine the annual amount of king crab equal quota share by dividing the GHL by the number of CFEC permits and interim use permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. When the threshold of 200,000 pounds is met or exceeded, the traditional fishery shall be prosecuted.

(1) When the harvestable surplus is above 88,500 and below 99,999 pounds of legal male red king crab, vessels will be subject to a 1,500 pound trip limit and no more than 3 days of fishing per trip to allow management to close areas as the regional GHLS are reached.

(2) When the harvestable surplus is between 100,000 and 199,999 pounds of legal male red king crab, vessels will be subject to a 2,000 pound trip limit and no more than 5 days of fishing per trip to allow management to close areas as the regional GHLS are reached.

(3) Permit holders will be required to pre-register before each trip for the area and dates they plan to fish.

(4) Permit holders will be required to call in daily to report their catch.

(5) All pots must be removed from the water at the end of a trip.

(6) Permit holders must wait one week between landings and the start of their next trip.

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 [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 at an economic threshold lower than 200,000 pounds of legal 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 ADF&G fishery ex-vessel prices, since 2000, the statewide average price of red king crab has increased from \$4.74 a pound to \$9.27 in 2018. We set this regulation to sunset before the start of the 2027/2028 season to allow this fishery management plan change a trial period of two board cycles. We mirrored the Chatham and Clarence sablefish equal quota share fisheries and realize that not all eligible permits will register to fish or land their full quota shares.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner’s Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (HQ-F20-073)

**The author of this proposal was incorrectly listed as the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in an earlier version.*

PROPOSAL 191

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan.

Amend the *Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan* to base harvestable surplus on historical fishery performance information when surveys are not available, as follows:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan

(c) Until January 1, 2027, the department shall open all areas except Section 11A, for a fishery on even-years for a minimum of 3 days and maximum of 7 days. Managers can close areas on 5 hours notice, based on commercial CPUE. In the event an area has a high CPUE, managers may choose to re-open an area at their discretion.

(1) Permit holders will be required to pre-register for the areas they plan to fish for a trip. Managers must be notified 6 hours in advance of a permit holder setting gear in a new area.

(2) Permit holders will be required to call in daily to report their catch.

(d) the Policy on King and Tanner Crab Resource Management (90-04-FB, March 23, 1990) **For those fisheries without surveys or historical catch information adequate for estimating the population size, the GHL will be set based on historical fishery performance, catch, and population trend.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the event the funding for the red king crab survey is removed from the ADF&G budget, we are asking ADF&G develop a harvest strategy that relies on fishery performance, catch, and population trend as the main population estimates.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-F20-074)

PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 34.114. Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan.

Establish minimum guideline harvest level and guidance on inseason adjustment of guideline harvest levels in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.114. Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan

(a) The Southeast Alaska golden king crab fishery shall be managed consistently with the board's Policy on King and Tanner Crab Resource Management (90-04-FB, March 23, 1990), adopted by this reference, and according to the principles set out in this section.

(b) To the extent possible, golden king crab shall be managed as a separate stock in each defined fishing area. The department shall close an area if the abundance of various sizes of male crabs is inadequate to provide for a sustained harvest, or when potentially high effort precludes an orderly fishery.

(c) The department shall base management on historical fishery performance, catch, and population structure information. A lack of adequate information will result in conservative management.

(d) The Policy on King and Tanner Crab Resource Management (90-04-FB, March 23, 1990) states that a Guideline Harvest Level is a preseason estimate of the level of allowable king and Tanner crab harvest. In those fisheries with accurate population estimates the appropriate harvest rate is applied to the best point estimate to determine the GH. For those fisheries without surveys or historical catch information adequate for estimating the population size, the GH will be set based on historical fishery performance, catch, and population trend. Due to the lack of formal assessments and only data being available from the fishery, each Golden King crab area shall open for a set of tides to a pre-season guideline harvest level that is a minimum of 10% of the upper range of the guideline harvest range set for the area. After one set of tides, the GH can be re-assessed and the fishery will be managed in-season accordingly.

(e) In-season adjustments may be made to the guideline harvest level and length of the fishing season. Information upon which such adjustments are based may include: 1.) overall fishing effort; 2.) catch per unit of effort and rate of harvest; 3.) relative abundance of Golden King crab; 4.) achievement of guideline harvest level (GH); 5.) proportion of soft-shelled crabs and rate of dead loss; 6.) general information on stock condition including adequacy of

reproductive stock; 7.) timeliness and accuracy of catch reporting; 8.) adequacy of subsistence harvests; 9.) the impact of severe or unexpected environmental conditions on the handling and trapping morality of crab; and 10.) other factors that affect ability to meet objectives of the policy. When this information shows that continued fishing effort would jeopardize the reproductive viability of king crab stocks within a registration area, or continued fishing would be counter to the goal and policies established by the Board, the registration area or a portion of the registration area will be closed by Emergency Order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan to further clarify for fishermen the expectations of how the fishery will be managed.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-F20-071)

PROPOSAL 193

5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Extend northern boundary of the Southern management area, as follows:

(g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of [POINT EATON AT 55° 56.80' N. LAT.] **Point Warde 56° 10.43' N. lat.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to extend the northern boundary of the Southern Area to include a portion of statistical area 107-20. We are not asking the guideline harvest level be raised.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-F20-072)

PROPOSAL 194

5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Remove Glacier Bay from the list of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 34.108 is amended to read:

(b) The waters of District 11 in

(1) Taku Inlet: all waters north of the latitude of Point Bishop at 58° 12.05' N. lat;

(2) Port Snettisham: all waters east of a line from Point Styleman at 57° 58.44' N. lat., 133° 53.88' W. long. to Point Anmer at 57° 56.08' N. lat., 133° 51.01' W long.; and

(3) Holkham Bay: all waters east of a line from Point Coke at 57° 47.33' N. lat., 133° 41.43' W. long. to Point Astley at 57° 42.59' N. lat., 133° 39.07' W. long.

[(c) THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 14 IN GLACIER BAY: ALL WATERS NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF POINT GUSTAVUS AT 58° 22.79' N. LAT.] **Repealed.**

(d) The waters of District 15 in Lynn Canal: all waters north of the latitude of Point Sherman Light at 58° 51.16' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Federal regulations prohibit commercial king crab fishing in Glacier Bay. Removing the reference to Glacier Bay as a blue king crab fishing area will make state regulations consistent with federal regulations for the blue king crab fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-150)

PROPOSAL 195

5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy

Extend Tanner crab fishing season in exploratory areas, as follows:

5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy.

(b)(2) at the end of the initial period, the core areas will close to fishing, and the noncore and exploratory areas will remain open for an additional five days. After the noncore areas close to fishing, the exploratory areas will remain open for an additional twenty-eight days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2018 SE shellfish board of fish meeting the board created a new "exploratory area" for Tanner crab in the exclusive economic zone of Registration Area A that is open for an additional fourteen days after the non core areas close to fishing. There has at this time been no effort in the new exploratory area.

There are several factors that contribute to the lack of effort. The biggest one being adverse weather conditions on the ocean during the fishery (the Registration Area A Tanner fishery has been traditionally prosecuted in bays, inlets and canals. Most fishermen are not set up to safely fish in rough weather).

I would like the board to extend the fishing period of the exploratory area to twenty-eight days after the close of the noncore fishery. Allowing fishermen more flexibility to wait for safer weather, should they choose to fish in the exploratory area.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F20-068)

PROPOSAL 196

5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Reduce the commercial golden king crab pot limit in waters of Registration Area A from 100 pots per vessel to 80 pots per vessel, as follows:

5 AAC 34.125(b)(2) is amended to read:

(b)(2) when the commercial golden king crab season is open in Registration Area A, and the commercial red king crab or Tanner crab season is closed, no more than **80** [100] king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A golden king crab pot reduction to 80 pots would mirror the pot limit currently in regulation for the Tanner crab fishery, which has the same start date as the golden king crab fishery. Reducing the number of pots in the fishery will ease fishing pressure on the Southeast Alaskan golden king crab stock and improve management precision in targeting fishery area guideline harvest levels.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-152)

PROPOSAL 197

5 AAC 35.113. Registration Area A Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Modify Tanner crab harvest strategy definition of core, non-core, and exploratory areas, as follows:

5 AAC 35.113(b) (2) (c) (2,3).

(b)(2) at the end of the initial period, the core areas will close to fishing, and the noncore and exploratory areas will remain open for an additional five days. After the noncore areas close to fishing, the exploratory areas will remain open for an additional fourteen days. After the inside exploratory areas close to fishing, the exclusive economic zone exploratory area will remain open for an additional fourteen days.

(c)(2) "noncore areas" include the following waters in Registration area A:

(any statistical area determined not to have had any pots hauled in the 3 previous years)

(3) "exploratory areas" include all waters of Alaska in those portions of districts in Registration Area A that are not described in (1) or (2) of this subsection and in the exclusive economic zone.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current harvest strategy for Tanner crab in registration area A is not meeting the ADF&G goal of optimized economic benefit from fish resources. The core, noncore, and exploratory areas, as currently defined, leave many districts, sub districts, and stat areas of registration area A unfished.

In order to reach the goal of optimized economic benefit any statistical area in the "noncore area" that has been fished in the last three years should be defined as a "noncore area"(in the same way the "core areas" are specifically defined), and any statistical area in the "noncore area" that has not been fished in the last three years should be redefined as "exploratory area", and remain open fourteen days after the "noncore areas" close.

Registration area A is a very large area. In a vessel that makes 8 knots it would take 50+/- hours, depending on the tide/wind, to drive from one end to the other. Many fisherman end up fishing "non core areas" close to where they fished in the "core areas" to avoid losing too much fishing time. Redefining the "noncore areas" that are currently not getting fished to "exploratory areas"

and giving fishermen extra time to fish them, would help ADF&G reach its goal of optimizing benefit from the registration area A tanner crab fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F20-069)

PROPOSAL 198

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Establish fixed start date for the Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A. (a) Male Tanner Crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon February 20, as announced by emergency order, through May 1.

(b) Leave as currently Written

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to address the issue of a floating start date for the tanner/golden crab fishery. Industry asked for board to adopt current regulation when the golden crab stocks were robust to help with gear being "up" from the tides for hauling and reducing gear tangles. I have 2 main reasons for wanting this regulation changed,

1: Insurance on vessel. The insurance pool our boat is in allows for hull & crew to be insured in 2 week installments with the monthly split on the 15th. With a later fixed start date we and those with similar policies could reduce operating cost when profit margins are getting tighter and tighter.

2: Conflicts between meetings, family travel, and prospect fishing. For those of us that like to prospect fishing the current regulation makes it difficult to do so if the "start" date falls in the earlier part of the time line allowed. This board meeting is a prime example of such conflict, go "look" around or attend meeting to convey this time conflict. With a spouse and children in the public school system their year usually starts on 2nd Monday so if returning from family trip and helping them get back in the "groove" I'm unable to prospect.

When getting feedback from other permit holders and the Dept. on proposing such a change there were a few issues that could arise. Under current regulation of starting at smallest tide set makes chances of a weather associated with bigger tides a possibility. I don't want the board to change or omit section (b) of current regulation, this is a great tool for dept. to use in helping conduct a safe fishery. The dept. had a concern if fishery started to late and stocks rebounded to warrant longer fishing seasons we might start getting close to spring crab breeding cycle. Industry also brought forth a concern where if too late a start date might make it difficult to switch over to herring or halibut/sablefish in a timely matter. Smaller vessels can't carry their whole string and have to shuttle gear out for wet storage before season. Depending on weather I feel 5 days after vessel comes off lay up insurance should give a window for allowing for this. I would like to see the board adopt a change in regulation to a start date of the 20th of February.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Willis

(EF-F20-052)

PROPOSAL 199

5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow operation of personal use, subsistence, or sport Dungeness crab and shrimp pot gear during the commercial king or Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) A person or vessel that operates commercial, subsistence, personal use, or sport pots or ring nets, other than [COMMERCIAL] shrimp pots or Dungeness crab pots, during the 30 days immediately before the scheduled opening date of the commercial king crab season in Registration Area A may not participate in that king crab fishery.

(b) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 31.053(d), 5 AAC 32.053(d), and 5 AAC 34.053(2), a person or vessel may operate [COMMERCIAL] shrimp pots or Dungeness crab pots during an open king crab season in Registration Area A if the [COMMERCIAL] shrimp or Dungeness crab season is open in Registration Area A at the same time as the commercial king crab season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At this time it is not legal for a person participating in a commercial king or tanner crab fishery to fish shrimp or Dungeness crab for personal sport or subsistence. At the same time it is legal to do so commercially. It is highly unlikely that a person could harvest legal Tanner or King crab in a shrimp or Dungeness pot. Catch of king or tanner crab in this type of gear is highly unlikely. As written this regulation is only limiting persons from harvesting a resource for their own use.

PROPOSED BY: Yancey Nilsen and Nels Otness

(EF-F20-007)

PROPOSAL 200

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. and 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close the Dungeness crab commercial and nonresident sport fisheries in the vicinity of Klawock, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness crab by non-residents and commercial Dungeness crab fishermen: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; east of Entrance Point at 55 31.200N, -133 07.627W extending to a point in Shinaku Inlet at 55 34.721N, -133 13.382W will be closed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close the waters to non-resident fishing & commercial fishing for Dungeness crab east of Entrance Point at 55 31.200N, -133 07.627W extending to a point in Shinaku Inlet at 55 34.721N, -133 13.382W.

Klawock has a large tourist population which flood the waters directly in front of Klawock Inlet, Shinaku Inlet, and Big Salt Lake with crab pot gear. The tourists deploy gear in the immediate area surrounding Klawock, they then leave the area of Klawock and Craig to sport fish in outside

waters. The non-resident fishermen check their crab pots when they return to the immediate surrounding waters. Community members of Klawock continue to see the non-resident tourists fish their limits of Dungeness crab pots. Residents of Klawock continue to have direct competition with the non-resident tourists during the summer months as well as the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen during the fall and winter months. Klawock residents are seeking an exceedingly small area surrounding Klawock for a subsistence only area. Klawock is a small community with limited amenities and employment opportunities. A small area closed to both commercial Dungeness fishermen and sport fishermen will allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Klawock subsistence fishermen to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. The non-resident sport fishermen would not be impacted by this small closed fishing area as they can go a short distance in closed waters to safely deploy sport fish Dungeness crab pots.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-059)

PROPOSAL 201

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Expand closed water boundary lines for the Dungeness crab commercial fishery in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area during the summer season, as follows:

In accordance with 5 AAC 32.150, points 3 & 4 are moved northward and extend between Baranof Island to Chichagof Island only during the summer commercial crab fishery (June 15th – August 15th). Point 4 is moved to Nismeni point on Baranof Island (57 33 45 N, 135 24 52 W), and point 3 would be moved to Chichagof Island (57 31 18 N, 135 34 41 W). Sport Dungeness crab fishing and retention in this area is allowed and the bag limits do not change as written in sport fishing regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The opportunity to harvest Dungeness crab for sport anglers in the Sitka area during summer months when the commercial fishery is being prosecuted is extremely limited without locals spending significant expense for fuel, bait, and effort. The reduction in opportunity for sport anglers is likely exacerbated in areas where sea otters are found, and as a greater number of commercial Dungeness crab permit holders have shifted effort to the Sitka area. Spring Dungeness crab opportunity is impacted during this time because many otherwise legal crab are molting and are not retained by sport anglers. During the summer months when there are a greater proportion of quality crabs (non-molting), locals sport anglers may catch many crab in each pot, but the proportion of legal males with a carapace equal to or greater than 6.5 inches are in very low proportion due to the commercial harvest effort. To ameliorate this, I suggest that the Board of Fish move the summer commercial crab boundary. The northern boundary would be between Nismeni Point on Baranof Island, and would extend west to Chichagof Island.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-086)

PROPOSAL 202

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Reduce waters closed to Dungeness crab commercial fishing in Tenakee Inlet, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 32.150(2) as follows: “waters of Tenakee Inlet north of 57. 46’ N. lat. and between 135. 06.50’ W. long. and 135 18.18’ W. long.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closed waters described in AAC 32.150(2) exceed the needs of a community of fewer than 150 people. These waters have become a honeypot for yacht charters.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-F20-092)

PROPOSAL 203

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Repeal closed waters for Dungeness crab commercial fishing in Merrifield Bay and Port Protection, as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 32.150(3).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Port Althorp is closed to commercial Dungeness crab fishing. Elohim Cove, the nearest post office, has a population of fewer than 25 people. This past February there were fewer than ten residents. There are, in fact, as many commercial lodges catering to non-residents as there are residents. Reserving the crab resource for the benefit of non-residents cannot be justified.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-F20-082)

PROPOSAL 204

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close the Dungeness crab sport fishery in the vicinity of Coffman Cove, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(i)(3)In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity – Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Coffman Cove south and west of a line extending from a point at 56'01.348'N lat., 132'49.673"W long, to a point located at 56"01.711'N lat., 132'51.008'W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Coffman Cove have a large tourist population who flood the waters directly in front of Coffman Cove. The tourists then leave Coffman Cove in their boats to fish the waters outside Coffman Cove and check their Dungeness crab pots when they return. The non-resident tourists’ fish their limits of Dungeness crab pots. Residents of Coffman Cove continue to have direct competition between the non-resident tourists during the summer months as well as the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen. Local Residents are seeking a very small area directly in front the City of Coffman

Cove for a subsistence only area. Coffman Cove is a small community with mostly seasonal based employment. A small area closed to both commercial Dungeness crab fishing and sport fishing will allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Coffman Cove subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living on Prince of Wales Island. The non-resident sport fishermen would not be impacted by this small area closed fishing area as they can go a short distance to deploy their Dungeness crab pots.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-085)

PROPOSAL 205

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters in Coffman Cove to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

5 AAC 32.150(#) waters Coffman Cove north and west of a line extending from a point at 56°05.806'N lat., 133°06.520'W long, to a point located at 56°05.616'N lat., 133°07.333'W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Coffman Cove have commercial Dungeness crab fisherman adjacent to their community. 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 commercial Dungeness crab season, some commercial Dungeness crab fishermen insist that they shall fish directly adjacent to Coffman Cove and in direct competition with the residents of Coffman Cove. Coffman Cove is a small community with mostly seasonal employment. A small area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Coffman Cove subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living on Prince of Wales Island. At the same time, with the high non-resident summer tourist population in Coffman Cove, a separate proposal has been submitted to close an area to sport fishing for Dungeness crab. 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-F20-086)

PROPOSAL 206

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close the Dungeness crab sport fishery in the vicinity of Whale Pass, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(i)(3)In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity – Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters near Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56°05.806'N lat., 133°06.520'W long, to a point located at 56°05.616'N lat., 133°07.333'W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Whale Pass has a large tourist population which floods the waters directly in front of the residences of Whale Pass. Members of Whale Pass continue to see these non-resident tourists' fish their limits of Dungeness crab pots as well as check other people's pots in the vicinity. Residents of Whale Pass continue to have direct

competition between the non-resident tourists during the summer months as well as the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen in the fall and winter months. Local Residents are seeking a very small area directly in front the City of Whale Pass for a subsistence only area. Whale Pass is a small community with very few jobs and amenities. A small area closed to both commercial Dungeness crab fishing and sport fishing will allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Whale Pass subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. The non-resident sport fishermen would not be impacted by this small area closed fishing area as they can go a short distance (furthest distance is a mile) in protected waters to deploy sport fish Dungeness crab pots.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-084)

PROPOSAL 207

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters in Whale Pass to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

5 AAC 32.150(#) waters of Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56°05.806'N lat., 133°06.520'W long, to a point located at 56°05.616'N lat., 133°07.333'W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Whale Pass have commercial Dungeness crab fishermen directly in front of their homes during the fall Dungeness crab season as permitted under 5 AAC 32.110(2)(B). 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 fall and winter months some commercial Dungeness crab fishermen insist that they shall fish directly in Whale Pass and in direct competition with the residents of Whale Pass. Whale Pass is a small community with very few jobs and amenities. A small increase to the area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially year round will continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Whale Pass subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. At the same time, with the high summer population of tourists in Whale Pass, a separate proposal has been submitted to close the same area to sport fishing for Dungeness crab. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet would not be impacted by this small area closed fishing area.

If this proposal is enacted, 5 AAC 32.110(2)(B) could be repealed.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-080)

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)

PROPOSAL 209

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Reduce the number of crab pots allowed and the Dungeness crab bag limit for nonresident anglers in District 3, as follows:

Reduce non-resident crab pot in-possession limit in District 3 to four (4) pots per vessel, two (2) crab pots per person with a daily harvest limit of two (2) legal sized male crab per day.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest of shellfish has become a challenge for rural Alaska residents. Reducing non-resident crab pot in-possession limit and harvest limit will help increase biomass for sustained harvesting for Alaskan Residents.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-057)

PROPOSAL 210

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in registration Area A.

Establish waters closed to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in Sukwaan Strait, as follows:

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in registration Area A; the following waters will be closed to the taking of Dungeness crab.

(19)

EXCLUDING SUKWAAN STRAITS FROM ROUND POINT 55*.125064; -132.688544 ACROSS TO EEK POINT 55*13770; -132.666874 NORTH TO THE HEAD OF NATZUHINI BAY 55*270024; -132.849299 EXTENDING WEST TO THE OPENINGS OF NORTH PASS 55*210175; -132961267 TO 55*207138; -132938232 AND SOUTH PASS 55.168517; -132.893346 TO 55*.163067;-132890543.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hydaburg has a long history of utilizing and protecting the local crab stocks. In recent years, declines in other areas of southeast has moved commercial crab boats into the local area. Couple this with a huge surge in sea otters to the area, we are seeing a drastic impact to the local crab stocks. We need to close the area to the commercial fishery to protect the stock for the local users to still provide an opportunity to participate in the personal use and sport fishery. The Prince of Wales area has seen a drastic decline in Dungeness crab due to predation by sea otters, with most communities unable to get crab in customary and traditional areas. It is imperative that we close these areas to protect a limited stock.

PROPOSED BY: Anthony Christianson (EF-F20-056)

PROPOSAL 211

5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Repeal and amend Dungeness crab fishing season in Sitka Sound Special Use Area, as follows:

Repeal AAC 32.110(2)(A).
Amend AAC 110(2)(C) to read “Section 13-B.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The season in 13-B was shortened by the Board at a meeting where Sitka’s representative went rogue and disobeyed the advisory committee’s instructions.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-F20-097)

PROPOSAL 212

5 AAC 32.052. Dungeness crab pot gear storage requirements.

Extend pot storage allowance after fishery closure, as follows:

Amend regulation to allow at least 7 days to remove pots from water following the Nov. 30 closure in Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As written regulation does not allow a reasonable amount of time to remove stored pots from the water following the November 30 closure in most of Registration Area A. The regulations should be amended to allow at least 7 days to remove pots from the water. This would be consistent with the time allowed at the August 15 closure.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-F20-100)

PROPOSAL 213

5 AAC 32.052. Dungeness crab pot gear storage requirements.

Extend pot storage allowance after fishery closure, as follows:

5 AAC 32.052(2). Amend language to allow a minimum 7 days storage following the non-emergency closure of Districts 3-16.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As written this regulation provides 7 days in water storage following the closure of the summer crab season in Area A but only 3 December days following the closure of the fall season in 14 of the 16 districts of Area A.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-F20-102)

PROPOSAL 214

5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Clarify that Dungeness crab pots are circular in shape, as follows:

5 AAC 32.125(f) is amended to read:

(f) In addition to the requirements specified in 5 AAC 32.050, a commercial Dungeness crab pot is a **circular** pot that has an outside diameter that is not more than 50 inches and is not more than 18 inches high.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Despite current regulation stating that a Dungeness crab pot size is limited to a maximum outside diameter, some confusion remains as to whether commercial Dungeness crab pots can be anything other than a circular pot. This language, along with requirements specified in 5 AAC 32.050, clarifies that Dungeness crab pots are circular in shape with vertical sides.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-151)
