

PROPOSAL 231

5 AAC 38.XXX. New Section.

Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid.

A commercial automated squid jig fishery that would have little or no bycatch would open in Southeast Alaska (season to be determined by department. Fishing may be restricted to one of two spawning events, either winter or summer, if it was felt there might be a biological concern regarding the volume of squid harvest). An annual stock report would be provided by the Department from which an annual TAC (Total Annual Catch) would be announced based on catch data provided by commercial logbooks as is done in most squid fisheries. Squid are very short lived (B.Magister in SEAK only live a year) and the biological risk from overharvesting is minimal as this species reproduces quickly and would be resilient to any discovered overharvest. The Department would have the authority to level fees to this fishery if it were deemed necessary to cover any expenses to oversee the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a directed commercial jig fishery for Squid (*Berryteuthis Magister* Armhook Squid) in Southeast Alaska coastal waters. Magister squid is an underutilized species that not only could provide a source of revenue for dwindling commercial fishermen, but also provide a mechanism to control their predation on other economically important commercial species such as all species of salmon, cod fish, and herring.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. In coordination with Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee.

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