

PROPOSAL 260

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 35.XXX. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab.

All waters East of a line from Mountain Point Light to the northernmost tip of Bold Island, then from the southernmost tip of Bold Island to Cone Point, permanently closed to the commercial taking of any species of crab or shrimp.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider closing the waters of Carroll Inlet, George Inlet, and Thorne Arm to the commercial taking of crab and shrimp. These areas are being overfished by the commercial fleet to the point that, as local residents of the area, we are hard pressed to catch these species for personal, sport, or subsistence use. Every season commercial vessels from other Southeast communities, along with vessels based in Ketchikan, move in to these bays and deploy hundreds and hundreds of pots and leave nothing but undersize and female crab, and make it very hard to catch any shrimp for the rest of us. I see no reason these areas should be open to commercial crab and shrimp fishing. There are plenty of areas they could fish other than in our backyard. Most of us local non commercial users can't afford to, or aren't equipped to go much further than these particular inlets. The commercial fleet can fish elsewhere so that we may have better access to these species in these areas.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have not coordinated with others, but I have talked to several local people who adamantly agree with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Mark R Hoyt

(EF-F24-011)
