

## **PROPOSAL 262**

### **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 sport fishing for Dungeness crab in Thorne Bay, as follows:

### **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**

(h) Repealed 5/12/2011.

(i) In the Prince of Wales Island vicinity,

(1) all waters of Klawock Harbor south of a line from the Klawock blinker light to the Klawock Cannery Dock are closed to

(A) snagging; a fish hooked anywhere other than the mouth must be released immediately;

(B) sport fishing for sockeye salmon;

(2) shrimp may not be taken in the waters of Twelve-Mile Arm west of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55° 29.07' N. lat., 132° 37.60' W. long., to the northeastern most tip of Loy Island at 55° 29.07' N. lat., 132° 36.70' W. long., to the easternmost tip of Cat Island at 55° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 39.08' W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55° 27.80' N. lat., 132° 40.93' W. long., including the waters of Hollis Anchorage;

(3) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Klawock Inlet, Shinaku Inlet or Big Salt Lake, northeast of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55° 31.20' N. lat., 133° 07.63' W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55° 34.72' N. lat., 133° 13.38' W. long.;

(4) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Coffman Cove south and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 01.35' N. lat., 132° 49.67' W. long., to a point located at 56° 01.71' N. lat., 132° 51.01' W. long.;

(5) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters near Whale Pass north and west of a line extending from a point at 56° 05.81' N. lat., 133° 06.52' W. long., to a point located at 56° 05.62' N. lat., 133° 07.33' W. long.;

**(6) Dungeness crab may not be taken in the waters of Thorne Bay west of a line from a point at 55° 39.92' N lat.,**

**132° 29.73' W. long., to a point located at 55° 39.80' N lat., 132° 29.59' W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Thorne Bay, located on the east side of Prince of Wales Island was created as a logging camp back in the times of intense logging on the island. Today it is a small community that is popular during the fishing and hunting seasons for visitors to the lodges around the bay. Many of them are unguided anglers who rent skiffs to fish, shrimp and crab in the local waters.

Even though there is a reduced daily possession limit of five crabs for residents and three for non-residents in Thorne Bay, populations continue to decrease. Crabbing used to be good all year long, now even in the spring before the lodges open, the crabbing is difficult. Residents often are unable to catch enough crabs for a dinner without running pots for days.

Both Coffman Cove and Whale Pass, also on the east side of the island, got changes to the regulations through the Board of Fish during the last cycle which limited crabbing to personal use. Thorne Bay is asking for the same thing. There will still be many areas for non-residents to go outside Thorne Bay for crab.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Yes. The East Prince of Wales AC.

**PROPOSED BY:** East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee

(HQ-F24-114)

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