

PROPOSAL 273

5 AAC 34.910. Fishing seasons for Registration Area Q.

Modify the start of the winter fishing season to open by emergency order on or after February 1 instead of opening on February 1, as follows:

34.910 (d) (2) through the ice only, during a fishing season established by emergency order to open on or after February 1 and to close no later than April 30;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the winter season opens on February 1 regardless of weather or ice conditions. Most fisheries allow the manager some discretion to adjust the openings to address unforeseen issues which would affect the safety or conservation. This fishery has a history of pot loss due to unstable ice and even a few people in need of rescue. Pot loss and ghost fishing by lot pots is poorly documented but is generally frowned upon. Programs to retrieve lost pots have been conducted in multiple locations with limited success. The best idea is to avoid pot loss.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, this proposal was proposed to the NNSAC and passed unanimously.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee

(HQ-F24-073)
