

PROPOSAL 278

5 AAC 34.625. Lawful gear for Registration Area O

Establish pot limit for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.625 is amended by adding subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) In the Registration Area O commercial golden king crab fishery established under 5 AAC 34.610(b), the following pot limits are in effect:

1. An aggregate of no more than 2,500 pots may be operated from a validly registered king crab vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently no pot limits in this longline pot crab fishery. Vessels have historically utilized as many pots as needed in order to work the gear every 20-25 days, and this has been less than 2,000 pots. Recently, a few vessels have been setting gear far in excess of this amount in order to pre-empt the fishing grounds and they are unable to clear the pots in a reasonable amount of time. While this is an allocative issue, there is also a conservation element of concern. Pots are not being worked and sit for a significant amount of time before being pulled, if they are pulled at all during the season. This can result in unnecessary deadloss for the resource.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is presented on behalf of the owners of the golden king crab harvester vessel, F/V Alaska Trojan.

PROPOSED BY: F/V Alaska Trojan

(HQ-F24-036)
