

PROPOSAL 295

5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J.

Amend Dungeness crab season dates for the North Peninsula District of Registration Area J, as follows:

5 AAC 32.410 is amended to read as follows:

(a) In the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, **North Peninsula**, and Aleutian Districts, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon May 1 until 11:59 p.m. October 31, except that in the waters of the Kodiak District south of the latitude of Boot Point at 56° 49.98' N. lat., and east of longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long. and waters south of the latitude of Cape Ikolik at 57° 17.40' N. lat., and west of the longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long., male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon June 15 until 11:59 p.m. October 31.

(b) ~~repealed~~ / / [IN THE NORTH PENINSULA DISTRICT, MALE DUNGENESS CRAB MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED FROM 12:00 NOON MAY 1 UNTIL 12:00 NOON OCTOBER 18.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The North Peninsula District Dungeness crab season currently closes at 12 noon on October 18, whereas all other Dungeness crab districts in Area J (Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands) close at 11:59 p.m. on October 31. The current closure date of October 18 in the North Peninsula District is based on a regulation specifying that Area J Dungeness crab seasons close 14 days prior to the November 1 opening of the Bering Sea Tanner crab season. The Bering Sea Tanner crab season last opened on November 1 in 1996 and has since transitioned to a rationalized fishery (2005) with a fixed season opening date of October 15. The intent of closing Area J Dungeness crab seasons 14 days prior to the opening of the Tanner crab season was to clear the fishing grounds for orderly Tanner crab openings. Current overlap between Bering Sea Tanner and North Peninsula Dungeness crab fisheries is minimal and not expected to change if this proposal is adopted. All other Area J Dungeness crab districts have had a season closure date of October 31 since 2015. Changing the North Peninsula Dungeness crab season closure from October 18 at 12:00 noon to October 31 at 11:59 p.m. would align it with other all other Area J Dungeness crab fisheries, provide consistency in management, and allow additional harvesting opportunity for fishery participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-157)
