

Shellfish (14 proposals)

Subsistence Shellfish

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 02.207. Lawful gear for subsistence king and Tanner crab fisheries.

Increase subsistence Tanner crab pot limit in portions of Prince William Sound, as follows:

Increase current subsistence pot limits from two pots per vessel to eight pots per vessel in zones 466033, 466032, 466003, 466005, 466002, 466031, 456031, 456032, 456002, 4566003, 466001, 456001, 456004, and 446001.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Subsistence Tanner crab fishery’s two pot limits across the sound does not allow a reasonably diligent person to acquire an adequate number of crab to meet their needs due to lower densities and longer distances to travel. Because crab densities are lower, but still harvestable is southeast PWS we do not believe a vessel pot limit is necessary in this area.

We propose to modify and increase Tanner Crab subsistence pot limits in southeast Prince William Sound. Currently, a vessel may only use two pots, even when multiple permit holders fish together. Allowing each permit holder their own two pot limit, up to eight total pots per vessel, would provide the opportunity to economically harvest crab whereas it is cost-prohibitive and impractical now. We do not believe individuals from northern and western PWS communities would travel to the southeastern crab fisheries to take advantage of this larger pot limit because they would be passing better crabbing grounds enroute where they could efficiently harvest their limits with only two pots per vessel.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Native Village of Eyak Cultural Department in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources. It was vetted through the Tribe’s Natural Resources Advisory Council and recommended it to Tribal Council who unanimously approved this submission.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (HQ-F24-097)

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 02.236. Closed waters and 5 AAC 35.312. Closed waters in Registration Area E.

Repeal closed waters for the Prince William Sound subsistence and commercial Tanner crab fisheries, as follows:

Remove the closed waters regulation for both the subsistence and commercial fishery.

5 AAC 02.236. Closed waters.

(a) Shellfish may not be taken in the nonsubsistence area of Prince William Sound as described in 5 AAC 99.015(a)(5).

[(B) THE FOLLOWING WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF KING AND TANNER CRAB FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES:

(1) PORT VALDEZ: NORTH OF 61° 01.00' N. LAT.;

(2) GALENA BAY: EAST OF A LINE FROM 60° 57.63' N. LAT., 146° 45.17' W. LONG. TO 60° 58.41' N. LAT., 146° 43.34' W. LONG.;

(3) PORT FIDALGO: NORTH OF A LINE FROM PORCUPINE POINT AT 60° 44.62' N. LAT., 146° 42.08' W. LONG. TO BIDARKA POINT AT 60° 49.14' N. LAT., 146° 38.45' W. LONG.;

(4) PORT GRAVINA: NORTH OF A LINE FROM GRAVINA POINT AT 60° 37.37' N. LAT., 146° 15.22' W. LONG. TO RED HEAD AT 60° 40.25' N. LAT., 146° 30.22' W. LONG.]

[5 AAC 35.312. CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA E. THE FOLLOWING WATERS ARE CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF TANNER CRAB:

(1) PORT VALDEZ: NORTH OF 61° 01.00' N. LAT.;

(2) GALENA BAY: EAST OF A LINE FROM 60° 57.63' N. LAT., 146° 45.17' W. LONG., TO 60°

58.41' N. LAT., 146° 43.34' W. LONG.;

(3) PORT FIDALGO: NORTH OF A LINE FROM PORCUPINE POINT AT 60° 44.62' N. LAT., 146°

42.08' W. LONG., TO BIDARKA POINT AT 60° 49.14' N. LAT., 146° 38.45' W. LONG.;

(4) PORT GRAVINA: NORTH OF A LINE FROM GRAVINA POINT AT 60° 37.37' N. LAT., 146° 15.22'

W. LONG., TO RED HEAD AT 60° 40.25' N. LAT., 146° 30.22' W. LONG.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current closed water regulations were passed at the 2017 and 2021 board cycles and were not properly vetted at that time. A large amount of changes occurred in the Tanner Crab fishery during those board meetings. CDFU does not feel the public had ample time to digest and comment on the proposals.

Closed waters for Tanner Crab fisheries do not exist elsewhere in the state and should not exist here. In Kodiak and Southeast, both highly productive Tanner Crab fisheries, there are no closed waters for Tanner Crab fishing.

The department's justification for these closure areas was that they are "Tanner Crab nursery grounds". For many reasons, it does not make sense to close areas based on where juvenile crab might live. Tanner Crab populations do not stay in the same geographic location from month to month, or year to year. Areas where the department identifies as having high concentrations of female or juvenile crab during their summer trawl survey may look completely different by the time the winter fishery occurs. Additionally, where PWS juvenile crabs congregate can change from one board cycle to the next. It does not make sense for the department to examine and close PWS areas every time a new biomass of juveniles is found. It also does not make sense to reassess nursery closures each board cycle.

Finally, we should not create nursery closures because there is minimal potential harm to juveniles and females by crab pots. Undersized crab either escape out of the escape rings or are returned to the water unharmed. The department also does trawl surveys through these "nursery areas" and uses their catch to develop the GHF for the eastern district. This mismatch of using survey data to set a GHF from an area closed to harvest the GHF could be part of the reason the GHF was unattained in 2022.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 02.215. Subsistence Dungeness Crab fishery, 5 AAC 32.210. Fishing seasons for Registration Area, and 5 AAC 32.290. Prince William Sound Dungeness Crab Fishery Management Plan.

Reopen the subsistence and commercial Dungeness crab fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

In the subsistence taking of Dungeness crab in the Prince William Sound Area: [IS CLOSED UNTIL THE DUNGENESS CRAB STOCKS RECOVER ENOUGH TO PROVIDE A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS AND REGULATIONS ARE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF FISHERIES THAT REOPEN THE FISHERY.]

1. **Dungeness Crab may be taken from March 20 through May 20 and from August 25 through December 31**
2. **the daily bag and possession limit is 5 crab per person**
3. **only male Dungeness Crab six and one-half inches or greater in shoulder width may be taken or possessed; male Dungeness Crab less than the minimum legal size and female Dungeness Crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed; for the purposes of this paragraph, the shoulder width measurement of Dungeness Crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine, not including the spines;**
4. **a pot used to take Dungeness Crab under this section must have at least two escape rings that each are not less than four and three-eighths inches, inside diameter; the escape rings must be located on opposite sides of the pot and the upper half of the vertical pane of the pot**
5. **no more than 10 ring nets or pots per person, with a maximum of 20 ring nets or pots per vessel, may be used to take Dungeness Crab.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dungeness fishery in Area E closed in 1992 for reasons stated by the department as "low crab abundance". However, no other Dungeness Crab fishery in Alaska is managed based on abundance. Dungeness Crab fisheries from California to the Aleutian islands are managed by regulating size, sex, and season (3-S management) with no crab abundance estimates or GHs. 3-S management has proven to be extremely effective as it restricts harvest to large Dungeness males that have already had a chance to reproduce.

Incidental capture on the Copper River and by subsistence Tanner crabbers in Orca Inlet shows evidence of growing Dungeness populations in Area E; which is consistent with the recent statewide boom from Southeast to Area M. ADFG has not shared data to support their assertion of low crab abundance. The last survey conducted by ADFG was in 2013 with only 13 pot lifts - not enough data to draw population conclusions.

We ask the board to open the commercial and subsistence Dungeness fisheries using the successful 3-S management employed elsewhere in Alaska.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-127)

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 02.XXX. New Section.

Adopt community-based subsistence harvest permits and reporting requirements for shellfish in the Prince William Sound Area, as follows:

- (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species AND SHELLFISH IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND ZONES in zones 466033, 466032, 466003, 466005, 466002, 466031, 456031, 456032, 456002, 4566003, 466001, 456001, 456004, and 446001 where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under
- (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Community Subsistence Harvest Permit to Include Shellfish

- (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Native Village of Eyak Cultural Dept. and Dept. of the Environment & Natural Resources, recommended by the Tribe's Natural Resources Advisory Council and unanimously approved by its Tribal Council.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eyak (HQ-F24-096)

Tanner Crab (5 proposals)

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 35.308. Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Repeal the Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy, as follows:

When the board adopted this harvest strategy in 2021 it chose to leave 5 AAC 35.311 "Commissioner's permits for Tanner Crab in Registration Area E" in regulation in case this new harvest strategy was not effective. We ask you to repeal 5 AAC 35.308 Registration Area E Tanner Crab harvest strategy in its entirety. A separate proposal we are submitting lays out a new harvest strategy that we hope the board will adopt, or otherwise simply revert this fishery back to a Commissioner's permit fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Area E Tanner Crab management plan adopted in 2021 does not follow the Board's "Policy on King and Tanner Crab

resource management" and should be repealed. Specifically management measure #5 which states: "A preseason estimate of the level of allowable King and Tanner Crab harvest is established for each fishery. In those fisheries with accurate population estimates the appropriate harvest rate is applied to the best point estimate to determine the GHL. For those fisheries without surveys or historical catch information adequate for estimating the population size, the GHL will be set based on historical fishery performance, catch, and population trend."

The adopted plan removes historic crab districts and instead splits Prince William Sound into five (5) non-traditional districts. Three of these non-traditional districts, according to the Department "...were aligned with historical statistical areas to develop a more accurate time series of statistical area-specific historical harvest and closely aligned to current statistical areas for management purposes". These areas are drawn with disregard to crab habitat. Currently they are arbitrary boundaries applied to a north-south and east-west grid that do not account for crab population, depth, migration or habitats.

Separate districts with distinct GHLs should be created only for distinct populations of crab. Instead, said plan creates a baseline estimate of abundance from 1983-1988 using imprecise and ill reported harvest data, by stat area, from the 1980's. It then extrapolates from those estimates for the next 25 years using trawl surveys, which do not occur in the newly drawn southwestern district. From these incomplete abundance estimates the GHLs are created for three of the new districts.

Unlike Kodiak or the Bering Sea, trawl surveys are ineffective for much of PWS. PWS more closely resembles Southeast Alaska, where said methods are not employed for Tanner crab population estimates. The variability of PWS seabed composition and geography, including glacial moraines, cause inaccuracy and inaccessibility via trawl. During the Commissioner's Permit Fishery of 2018-2021, as well as test fisheries conducted in 2016 and 2020-2022, biomass was discovered throughout PWS that was previously undetected by trawl surveys, including areas that were once devoid of crab. The densest crab populations were found in northwest PWS. The adopted plan closes that area indefinitely, claiming to "...not have sufficient trawlable habitat to develop an assessment". Furthermore, the adopted plan expanded the scope of these surveys creating unrealistic cost and management goals for the department. As it stands, ADFG can survey only one area per year.

Current harvest data clearly shows the crab population of this era bears little resemblance to the fishery of the 1980's. However, this data was not considered in the creation of the current management plan. It was instead built on trawl surveys of inadequate proportion, and fishery performance of more than 35 years ago. Because it was the only option for a tanner fishery, CDFU supported this plan, albeit modified, at the 2021 board cycle. After further evaluation it is deemed an unworkable model. We contend that this fishery is without an accurate population estimate, and therefore the GHL should be set based on fishery performance, catch, and population trend.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-120)

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 35.308. Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Modify the harvest strategy for Prince William Sound Tanner crab, as follows:

5 AAC 35.308 Registration Area E Tanner Crab harvest strategy

(a) Fishery performance based on logbook and inseason reported CPUE of legal male crab will be used to manage fishery area in season and postseason to set GHL. The following reference points will be used to make these management decisions

1. Target CPUE of 15.25 legal male Tanner Crab
Trigger CPUE of 11.5 legal male Tanner Crab
Limit CPUE of 7.5 legal male Tanner Crab

(b) In Registration Area E, the GHL will be set at 100,000 lbs but will be adjusted based on fishery performance determined from commercial fishermen logbook CPUE of legal male crab as follows:

1. The GHL will be increased for the following season for any of the following reasons:
 1. If the most recent season CPUE is $>$ than the most recent previous season and is $>$ Target CPUE the GHL will increase by 20% the following season.
 2. If the most recent logbook CPUE is $>$ than the most recent previous season and \leq Target CPUE legal male crab and $>$ Trigger the GHL will increase by 10% the following season.
 3. If the most recent logbook CPUE is $>$ than the most recent previous season and is \leq Trigger and $>$ Limit the GHL may increase up to a maximum of 5% the following season
2. The GHL will be decreased for the following season for any of the following reasons:
 1. If CPUE is $<$ than the most recent previous season and is $>$ Limit CPUE and \leq Trigger CPUE GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 40% the following season
 2. If CPUE is $<$ than the most recent previous season and is $>$ Trigger Cpue and \leq Target CPUE the GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 20% the following season

(c) Fishery performance by statistical area will be assessed inseason with a minimum requirement of 300 pot lifts per statistical area before taking management action under the following guidelines:

1. If logbook CPUE is \geq Target manage to GHL.
2. If logbook CPUE is \geq Trigger but $<$ Target manage to GHL and monitor closely
3. If logbook CPUE is \geq Limit and $<$ Trigger close statistical area for remainder of season.
4. If logbook CPUE is $<$ Limit close fishery statistical area remainder of season and subsequent closure of statistical area of 1 year for commercial fisheries the following season, depending upon a postseason review.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create an Area E Tanner Crab harvest strategy with a conservative GHL that incorporates fishery performance to allow a fishery for the coming years much like the Commissioner's permit fisheries that occurred from 2018-

2021. This harvest strategy is very similar to the one presented by the department for Southeast Golden King Crab in “Recommended Harvest Strategy for Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab”. The Commissioner’s permit fisheries in southwest PWS conducted from 2018-2021 and the test fisheries in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were successful in discovering new Tanner Crab populations and a much needed winter fishery for the boats of Prince William Sound. Those fisheries, although limited in area and harvest allowance, resulted in an average harvest of 103,234 lbs per year with an average CPUE of 13 for the Commissioner's permit fishery and 15.25 for the test fisheries. These CPUE’s compare well with the historic fisheries’ catch rates. For the 1987 and 1988 years, the CPUE for the commercial fleet was 16 and 17 respectively for the western district and 11 and 17 for the northern district. With the larger 75 pot limit that was being fished in the 1980’s, we can assume longer soak time is most of the contributing factor to the slightly higher CPUE seen then. These are also very similar to the CPUE seen in the southeast Tanner Crab fishery which over the last 10 years has had an average CPUE range of 12-16.

We believe that CPUE is the only consistent data point the department has at this time to estimate population size and therefore must incorporate it into the harvest strategy. This proposed harvest strategy recommends a very conservative GHLL of 100,000 lbs based on the average harvest during the Commissioner’s permit fishery and test fisheries. It also incorporates a CPUE target level based on the average CPUE for the PWS test fisheries that occurred in 2020, 2021, and 2022 of 15.25 and the Trigger and limit levels were set at 75% and 50% of the target rounded to the nearest quarter.

This low GHLL combined with the CPUE trigger results in extremely low risk of harm to the stock but will allow a fishery to continue to be executed to the coming years and grow or shrink as we develop a better understanding of Tanner Crab populations in PWS.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-121)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 35.325. Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

Increase the pot limit in the Prince William Sound Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

Reinstate the historic pot limit of 75. This pot limit is reasonable for the size of area and density of crab found in PWS and comparable to southeast Alaska's pot limit of 80.

5 AAC 35.325(d) is amended to read:

(d) The number of Tanner Crab pots that may be operated from a vessel will be established by emergency order before the opening of each commercial Tanner Crab season, not to exceed [30] 75 Tanner Crab pots per vessel

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current pot limit was put into place in 2017 as part of the department's new Tanner Crab harvest strategy. In 2017 the department also created regulation allowing a Commissioner's permit fishery with a limit of 50

pots. The historic pot limit for this fishery before 2017 was 75 pots. A larger pot limit combined with reduced hauling hours will result in less handling of female and undersized crab because each pot is hauled less in any given time period. These longer soak times give small crab time to escape out of the pots on their own. When the department reopened this fishery, it did not enforce the daylight hauling hours regulation and drastically lowered the pot limit. This lower pot limit resulted in participants running their pots 2-3 times a day, which increased the handling of juvenile and female crab and lowered the economic viability of the fishery. The biomass of Tanner Crab in PWS is very spread out. It requires a lot of prospecting, which is extremely costly and time consuming with a small pot limit. In the 2022 commercial fishery the fleet was unable to harvest the GHF because it was not economically viable to prospect large areas in central PWS during small weather windows with only 25 pots.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-122)

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 35.325. Lawful gear for Registration Area E.

Establish a pot limit of 30 pots per vessel in the Prince William Sound Tanner crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 35.325(d) is amended to read:

d) The number of Tanner Crab pots that may be operated from a vessel will be [ESTABLISHED BY EMERGENCY ORDER BEFORE THE OPENING OF EACH COMMERCIAL TANNER CRAB SEASON, NOT TO EXCEED] 30 Tanner Crab pots per vessel. [IN DETERMINING THE ANNUAL POT LIMIT, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONSIDER THE

- (1) TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VESSELS;
- (2) ESTIMATED CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT; AND
- (3) THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove language allowing for an annual adjustment to pot limits that was put into place in 2017.

Adjusting gear limits based on registered participants is not a common practice in other Alaska commercial fisheries and there is no reason to do so in Area E. A known number of pots gives some consistency to the daily harvest a fisherman can expect to achieve each year they participate in the fishery. By lowering pot limits, the department decreases the daily harvest potential of participants, therefore increasing the cost to participate in the fishery. Pots are also expensive and sold in matching sets. If the pot limit increases from one year to the next, it can be extremely difficult to find more pots that stack well with the ones a operator already owns. This results in an unsafe and inefficient load. We do not believe that changing pot limits on an annual basis is a necessary tool for the department because it currently manages all other Alaska crab fisheries without this regulation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-123)

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 35.XXX. New section. Tenders for Tanner Crab.

Allow vessels participating in the Prince William Sound Tanner crab fishery to also tender Tanner crab, as follows:

Create new regulatory language to allow boats to act as tenders while also participating in the fishery. That way at the end of the season, fishermen could put all of their catch on one boat to take to a processor. Regulation like this is currently in place for the Kodiak District Dungeness fishery.

New text as follows:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 35.033, in the Prince William Sound Area, a vessel registered to fish for Tanner Crab may tender Tanner Crab from other registered Tanner Crab vessels. A tender operator must be an authorized agent of a processor. Before using a vessel as a tender under this section, the tender operator shall register as a tender with the department at the department office. A tender operator shall complete an ADF&G fish ticket at the first point of delivery from the catcher vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Finding a market for a small-scale fishery such as Area E’s can be difficult and may require the crab be run far from the fishing grounds to Kodiak, Seward, or elsewhere. On a small quota year with a low price, it may not be economically viable for the few participants to hire a separate tender or for each participant to individually run a small load of crab across the Gulf of Alaska in the winter.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-125)

King Crab (4 proposals)

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 34.210 Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Establish season dates for a commercial golden king crab fishery in Prince William Sound, as follows:

Reinstate the historic season dates for Golden King Crab in PWS and instate gear limits.

5 AAC 34.210 Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

(a) The commercial taking of **red king crab and blue king crab** in Registration Area E is closed until the king crab stocks have recovered enough for a harvest strategy to be developed by the department and adopted by the Board of Fisheries.

(b) **Golden King Crab may be taken from 12;00 Noon November 1 to December 20th and from 12:00 noon January 15 through March 31 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m**

5 AAC 34.225. Lawful gear for Registration Area E

(a) King crab may be taken only with king crab pots. **Except that Golden King Crab taken in Tanner Crab pots as described in 5 AAC 35.125(f) may be retained if the CFEC permit holder fishing for Tanner Crab is also registered to fish for Golden King Crab and both crab fisheries are open at the same time.** King crab taken by other means must be returned to the water without further harm.

(c) The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area E:

(1) when the commercial Golden King Crab season is open in Registration Area E, and the commercial Tanner Crab season is closed, no more than 30 king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab; (2) when the commercial Golden King Crab and Tanner Crab seasons are open in Registration Area E at the same time, an aggregate of no more than 75 king and Tanner crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for both king crab and Tanner Crab

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? End the continued closure of the Golden King Crab (GKC) fishery in Prince William Sound. The GKC fishery has been closed since the 1994–1995 season, despite evidence of a small but healthy stock. ADFG has little ability to assess GKC populations as they live on cliffs in deep water, which makes targeting them difficult - even to experienced fishermen. Widespread evidence of GKC throughout western Prince William Sound was seen in the recent Tanner Crab commercial and test fisheries, as well as ADFG’s own pot survey in 2005-2007 and the recent 2020 test fishery.

The GKC fisheries in the state of Alaska that remain open are in Southeast Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Management in those areas relies heavily on commercial fisherman's catch rates and knowledge of the stock to inform the GHL. A management strategy such as the one outlined for Southeast Alaska by Andrew Olson and Katie Palof in 2023, “Recommended Harvest Strategy for Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab”, is the only path forward for a fishery in Prince William Sound. This is because it uses commercial fishermen’s CPUE to develop GHLs and collect data on stock health. ADFG in Southeast also partners with commercial fishermen to take size and sex data on undersize GKC to assist management. This kind of collaborative management is possible in PWS, but it requires the ability to open the fishery to be changed in regulation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-128)

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 34.215. Guideline harvest levels

Adopt a harvest strategy for golden king crab in Prince William Sound, as follows:

5 AAC 34.215. Guideline harvest levels

[REPEALED 6/30/83]

(a) Fishery performance based on logbook and inseason reported CPUE of legal male crab will be used to manage the fishery area in season and postseason to set GHL. The following reference points will be used to make these management decisions

Target CPUE of 2 legal male Golden King Crab

**Trigger CPUE of 1.5 legal male Golden King Crab
Limit CPUE of 1 legal male Golden King Crab**

(b) In Registration Area E, the GHL will be set at 10,000lbs but will be adjusted based on fishery performance determined from commercial fishermen logbook CPUE of legal male crab as follows:

The GHL will be increased for the following season for any of the following reasons:

If the most recent season CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is > Target CPUE the GHL will increase by 20% the following season.

If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and \leq Target CPUE legal male crab and > Trigger the GHL will increase by 10% the following season.

If the most recent logbook CPUE is > than the most recent previous season and is \leq Trigger and > Limit the GHL may increase up to a maximum of 5% the following season

The GHL will be decreased for the following season for any of the following reasons:

If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Limit CPUE and \leq Trigger CPUE GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 40% the following season

If CPUE is < than the most recent previous season and is > Trigger Cpue and \leq Target CPUE the GHL may be reduced up to a maximum of 20% the following season

(c) Fishery performance by statistical area will be assessed inseason with a minimum requirement of 200 pot lifts per statistical area before taking management action under the following guidelines:

If logbook CPUE is \geq Target manage to GHL.

If logbook CPUE is \geq Trigger but < Target manage to GHL and monitor closely

If logbook CPUE is \geq Limit and < Trigger close statistical area for remainder of season.

If logbook CPUE is <Limit close fishery statistical area remainder of season and subsequent closure of statistical area of 1 year for commercial fisheries the following season, depending upon a postseason review.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a GHL and Harvest strategy for Golden King Crab in PWS that uses commercial CPUE to trigger closures much like the strategy proposed for Southeast GKC by Andrew Olson and Katie Palof in 2023 "Recommended Harvest Strategy for Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab".

We set CPUE target levels based on input from crab fishermen with experience targeting Golden King Crab in PWS. These reference points compare well those in the Southeast fishery, which sets target CPUE at 1.6 - 4.1 legal males depending on the area. The Trigger and limit levels were set at 75% and 50% of the target. These CPUE ranges correspond well with what limited information we have about the CPUE in PWS in the 1980s and the recent test fishery for Golden King Crab.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)

(EF-F24-129)

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 34.XXX. New Section and 5 AAC 35.308. Registration Area E Tanner crab harvest strategy.

Adopt new Prince William Sound king and Tanner crab harvest strategies, as follows:

Establish harvest strategy for king and tanner consistent w/B.O.F. policy. See supporting document.

[A note from Boards Support: nine additional pages accompanied this faxed proposal and this was deemed too much to include in the proposal book. The authors of this proposal are encouraged to submit that as written comments for the Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna finfish and shellfish meeting.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ADF&G King & Tanner Crab harvest strategies are wildly inconsistent w/established policy.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Since 1988 have tried to reestablish fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Robert A Smith and Warren Chappell (HQ-F24-137)

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 77.557. Personal use king crab fishery, 5 AAC 77. 558. Personal use Tanner crab fishery, and 5 AAC 55.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Prince William Sound Area.

Open a sport king crab fishery and liberalize the personal use king and Tanner crab fisheries in Prince William Sound, as follows:

A person may fish for Tanner and Golden King Crab from April 15-September 15. People opting to fish during this season are ineligible to fish during the season from October 1-March 31. During this season, from April 15-September 15 a vessel may only have two pots of any kind on board. These can be two shrimp pots, two crab pots, or one crab and one shrimp pot. A crab pot can not be placed on the same long line as a shrimp pot. Additionally, only one permit can be fished from a vessel at a given time.

There will be an annual limit of:
50 male Tanner Crab
2 male Golden King Crab

And a daily limit of 10 male Tanner Crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open an additional sport/personal use fishery for tanner and golden king crab in Prince William Sound from April 15-September 15. Currently a season is open from October 1-March 31 during the stormiest and coldest portion of the year. This severely limits the opportunity to participate in the fishery. Having an additional season corresponding to the sport/personal use shrimp fishery would provide more people the opportunity to fish for crab. If a season as proposed below is adopted it would have the effect of reducing the effort in the shrimp fishery with limited to no effect on the health of the crab populations. There has been a commercial fishery for Tanner crab in the Prince William Sound for

a number of years now. There is no reason a more viable sport/personal use fishery can not be implemented.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Discussed with friends who boat in Prince William Sound.

PROPOSED BY: Brian West (HQ-F24-056)

Miscellaneous Shellfish (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 38.217. Registration Area E Octopus Management Plan.

Establish a directed octopus fishery in Prince Willilam Sound, as follows:

- (a) In Registration Area E, octopus may [ONLY] be taken as bycatch in pot, trawl, and longline gear fisheries as described in this section.
- (b) The guideline harvest range for octopus in Registration Area E is 0 - 35,000 pounds; when the guideline harvest level has been reached, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, Registration Area E to the retention of octopus.
- (c) Octopus may be retained as bycatch only in an amount not to exceed 20 percent, by weight, of the directed harvest on board the vessel, except that in a directed fishery for shrimp, octopus may be retained in an amount not to exceed 35 percent, by weight, of the shrimp on board the vessel.
- (d) Octopus may be harvested under a commissioner permit as a longline lair pot fishery to allow the guideline harvest of the 0-35,000 pounds; when the guideline harvest level has been reached, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, Registration Area E to retention of Octopus. Bycatch retention is prohibited in the Octopus longline lair pot fishery.**
- (e) Octopus retained for sale or for personal use shall be reported on a fish ticket as described in 5 AAC 39.130.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow guideline harvest of octopus in Area E under a commissioner permit.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) (EF-F24-050)
