

COMMERCIAL AND SPORT CRAB (30 proposals)

Golden king crab

PROPOSAL 233

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the criteria for setting the season start date for the Registration A golden king crab commercial fishery to fall within the smallest set of falling tides between February 10 and 17.

Set the season start date for golden king crab in Southeast Alaska to the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set the season start date for the golden king crab fishing season on the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February. This will allow fishermen to start fishing before the tides have started rising and finish the season\ before the peak of the tide cycle. Tides are a significant challenge at times in the golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska, with fishermen often having to wait for their buoy bags to “pop up” to the surface when the tide lets off and no longer holds them under water. By starting the season before the tides start rising again, the relatively short golden king crab season in some areas could be finished before the tides get strong again, making gear retrieval more difficult. This will allow for easier pot retrieval, less risk of gear interaction, and less potential gear loss.

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

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-119)

PROPOSAL 234

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the start time for the Registration Area A commercial golden king crab fishery from 12:00 noon to 8:00 a.m. on the day the fishery opens.

The commercial golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will begin at 8 am.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start time for the Southeast Alaska commercial golden king crab fishery start time from 12 noon to 8 am. By changing the start time, it will allow for more daylight hours for fishermen to set their pots on the first day. Weather is generally marginal at best during the golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska, reducing the number of pots vessels can carry as well as the speed the vessel can travel at. Vessels often have to return to a bay that they have pots stored in to bring back out to the fishing grounds. By opening the fishery start time 4 hours earlier, it will allow vessels to operate in more daylight hours, increasing the safety for the vessel and crew.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-063)

PROPOSAL 235

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A.

The commercial golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska season start date can be delayed for freezing spray conditions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for a delayed season start to the Southeast Alaska golden king crab for freezing spray warnings concerns. Currently there is a regulation that allows for a delayed start to the golden king crab season for high winds, by also allowing for freezing spray conditions, it creates a safer environment for fishermen to start the fishery in.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-062)

PROPOSAL 236

5 AAC 34.127. King crab pot storage requirements for Registration Area A.

Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial king crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms.

Allow for commercial fishing pot storage out to 20 fathoms in depth for the Southeast Alaska commercial golden king crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the storage depth for golden king crab pots from 10 fathoms to 20 fathoms in Southeast Alaska. With rising interest in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab fishery, there is a growing issue of limited pot storage in specific stat areas. Fishermen currently can store their pots near the fishing grounds in depths up to 10 fathoms. This has lead to fishermen having to store their gear vert close to one another, as well as limiting vessels ability to anchor up out of the bad weather because the anchorages are filled with stored gear.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-061)

PROPOSAL 237

5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Expand the defined Lower Chatham Strait Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include a portion of District 5.

5AAC 34.107 – Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A

- (a) Northern Area: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.
- (b) Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.
- (c) North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.
- (d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56°35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.
- (e) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56°33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.
- (f) Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56°18.67' N. lat. **And all waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' lat.**
- (g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56°20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the current golden king crab fishing areas were developed, core fishing areas were captured but some grounds that were open and previously fished got left out as they were less utilized areas. The status of the areas being incorporated in a fishing area are not listed as closed waters but they are also not listed in a fishing area open to fishing for Golden King Crab. Capturing these historical fishing grounds will provide more opportunities and area to fish, possibly leading to less congestion in some areas. At the last Board of Fish meeting some of these undesigned fishing grounds were added to the Southern Area.

This proposal adds in the waters of District 5 south of the latitude of Point Baker into the Lower Chatham Strait Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed proposal with help of SEAFA but without enough time for them to agree to be a sponsor.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen (HQ-F24-024)

PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

Expand the defined Southern Area in the golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area A to include all waters of Section 3-A.

5AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.

- (a) Northern Area: all waters of Section 11-A, Section 13-C, and Section 13-A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and all waters of Districts 12 and 15.
- (b) Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.
- (c) North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.
- (d) East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56° 35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.
- (e) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.
- (f) Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56° 18.67' N. lat.
- (g) Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, **all waters of Section 3-A**, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the current golden king crab fishing areas were developed, core fishing areas were captured but some grounds that were open and previously fished got left out as they were less utilized areas. The status of the areas being incorporated in a fishing area are not listed as closed waters but they are also not listed in a fishing area open to fishing for Golden King Crab. Capturing these historical fishing grounds will provide more opportunities and area to fish, possibly leading to less congestion in some areas. At the last Board of Fish meeting some of these undesignated fishing grounds were added to the Southern Area. This proposal includes the waters of Section 3A Baker into the Southern Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed proposal with help of SEAFA but without enough time for them to agree to be a sponsor.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen (HQ-F24-025)

PROPOSAL 239

5 AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A and 5 AAC 34.115 Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.

Divide the defined Northern Area of the golden king crab fishery in Registration Area A into two areas and split the current guideline harvest level between the two new areas, as follows:

5AAC 34.107 Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A

(a) Upper Northern Area: All waters of Section 11-A, the waters of District 12 North of East Point at 57° 48.34'N., 134°57.01' W. long to 57° 48.34' N lat., 134°48.65' W long, and west of a line from 57°48.34' N lat., 134°48.65' W long and north of a line at 57°55.70' N lat, 134° 49.54' W long and all waters of District 15.

(b) Lower Northern Area: Waters of Section 13-C and Section 13A in Peril Strait east of Point Kakul at 57° 21.83' N. lat., 135° 41.42' W. long., and waters of District 12 South of East Point at 57° 48.34' N., 134° 57.01' W. long to 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long, and east of a line from 57° 48.34' N lat., 134° 48.65' W long and north of a line at 57° 55.70' N lat, 134° 49.54' W long

[(a) NORTHERN AREA: ALL WATERS OF SECTION 11-A, SECTION 13-C, AND SECTION 13-A IN PERIL STRAIT EAST OF POINT KAKUL AT 57° 21.83' N. LAT., 135° 41.42' W. LONG., AND ALL WATERS OF DISTRICTS 12 AND 15.]

(c) [(b)] Icy Straits Area: all waters of District 14.

(d) [C] North Stephens Passage Area: all waters of Sections 11-B and 11-C.

(e) [D] East Central Area: all waters of Section 11-D, District 10, and District 9 east of a line from Kingsmill Point at 56° 50.00' N. lat., 134° 25.17' W. long. to Point Gardner at 57° 01.00' N. lat., 134° 37.00' W. long., all waters of District 8 north of the latitude of Blaquiere Point at 56° 35.00' N. lat., all waters of Section 6-A, and all waters of District 5 north of the latitude of Point Baker at 56° 21.53' N. lat.

(f) [E] Mid-Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 north of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat. and west of a line from Kingsmill Point to Point Gardner.

(g) [(F)] Lower Chatham Strait Area: all waters of District 9 south of the latitude of Point Ellis at 56° 33.67' N. lat., and that portion of District 13-B south of the latitude of Redfish Cape at 56° 18.67' N. lat.

(h) [(G)] Southern Area: all waters of District 1 and District 2, all waters of District 6 south of a line from Point Colpoys at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 11.90' W. long., to Macnamara Point at 56° 20.18' N. lat., 133° 03.54' W. long., and all waters of District 7 south of the latitude of Point Warde at 56° 10.43' N. lat.

And

5 AAC 34.115 Guideline Harvest ranges for Registration Area A

b) In Registration Area A, the guideline harvest ranges for the taking of golden king crab in the following areas are:

(1) Upper Northern Area: 0- 72,500 pounds;

(2) Lower Northern Area: 0-72,500 pounds;

[(1) NORTHERN AREA: 0-145,000 POUNDS;]

(3) [(2)] Icy Strait Area: 0- 55,000 pounds;

(4) [(3)] North Stephens Passage Area: 0-25,000 pounds;

(5) [(4)] East Central Area: 0-225,000 pounds;

(6) [(5)] Mid-Chatham Strait Area: 0-150,000 pounds;

(7) [(6)] Lower Chatham Strait Area: 0-50,000 pounds;

(8) [(7)] Southern Area: 0-25,000 pounds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Split the golden king crab Northern Area into two fishing areas. An Upper Northern Area and a Lower Northern Area and divide the GHR between the two fishing areas. We have included the two regulation changes together in one proposal as they are linked such that you need both regulation changes to address this intertwined issue. The reason behind the request to split the area into two areas is it is an

extremely large area. It appears to the fishermen fishing this area that the timing of the crab is different due to the extreme distance. When the Lower Northern Area is having very good catch per unit of effort at the beginning of the season, by the time the Upper Northern Area catches increase, and the GHL/length of the season is changed the timing for the Lower Northern Area peak catchability has decreased. The division of areas was based on maintaining intact sub-district area boundaries. The Upper Northern Area would encompass the District 12 subdistricts of 112-13; 112-14; 112-15; 112-16; 112-50; 112-61; 112-63; and 112-65. The Lower Northern Area would encompass the District 12 subdistricts of 112-11; 112-12; 112-17; 112-18; 112-19; 112-21; 112-22; 112-41; 112-42; 112-43; 112-44; 112-45; 112-46; 112-47; 112-48; 112-67; 112-71; 112-72; 112-73; 112-80 and 112-90.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Consulted with other fishermen and Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Thomassen and Bae Olney Miller (HQ-F24-026)

PROPOSAL 240

5 AAC 35.106 Area A registration.

Allow participants in the Registration Area A Tanner and golden king crab fisheries to have Tanner crab aboard their vessel while fishing for golden king crab in a closed commercial Tanner crab area.

A vessel registered to fish both Golden King crab and Tanner crab in Registration are A may have baited Golden King crab gear in a portion of Registration Area A that is closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing but may not haul Golden King crab gear in a portion of Registration Area A that is closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing until all Tanner crab are removed from the vessel and the vessels Tanner crab registration is invalidated. Once the vessels Tanner crab registration is invalidated, Tanner crab may not be retained on or sold from that vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The way the regulation is currently written a vesse that is dual registered for Golden King crab and Tanner crab may not have baited gear in the water in an area closed to commercial Tanner crab fishing. There are several portions of registration Area A that have both Golden King crab and Tanner crab. Under the current regulation a Vessel fishing both Golden King crab and Tanner crab has 2 choices:

- 1) Quit Tanner crabbing early to ensure all Tanner crab are removed from the vessel and the vessel registration is invalidated before the close time.
- 2) Remove all the bait containers and tie open the pot doors while the vessel is in town unloading Tanner crab and invalidating their registration.

Either of these options costs a vessel dual registered for Golden King crab and Tanner crab time and money. I believe the rewrite of this regulation mantains the intent not allow the hauling of pots by a dual registered vessel in an area that is closed to Tanner crab, but allows the vessel to leave those pots baited and fishing while unloading and invalidating the Tanner crab registration.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Through conversations with fishery management and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F24-094)

Red king crab

PROPOSAL 241

5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A king crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 34.128(c)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open King crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Golden King or Red King crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Golden King or Red King crab.

Currently a vessel fishing Golden King or Red King crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of King crab pots from his limit(80 for golden King crab and 20 for Red King crab)for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F24-149)

PROPOSAL 242

5 AAC 34.111 Section 11-A Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan.

Allocate 100% of the Section 11-A red king crab guideline harvest level to the personal use fishery, 70% for summer harvest and 30% for fall/winter harvest.

We propose that the Board of Fish repeal and readopt 8 AAC 34.111 as follows:

5 AAC 34.111

(a) The Board of Fisheries (Board) finds that red and blue king crab in Section 11A of the Southeastern Alaska Area shall be allocated at 100% to personal use. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab harvest in Southeastern Alaska has led to severe reductions in red/blue king crab stocks since the 2005/06 season, such that personal use and commercial seasons for red/blue king crab have been closed or significantly restricted for multiple seasons following a commercial season. The Board finds that commercial red/blue king crab seasons in 2005/06 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure, in 2011/12 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure, and in 2017/2018 resulted in a 4-year commercial closure as of 2023/24. The Board finds that

commercial red/blue king crab season in 2005/06 led to personal use red/blue king crab season closures in Section 11A for 2007/08 Winter, 2008/09 Summer/Winter, and 2009/10 Summer/Winter and that the commercial red/blue king crab season in 2011/12 led to personal use red/blue king crab season closures in Section 11A for the 2012/12 through 2016/17 seasons. The Board finds that 13 of the red/blue king crab commercial permit holders fished for 24 hours in Section 11A in 2017/18 and that the commercial harvest reduced crab stocks such that there has been zero economic benefit from red/blue king crab harvest in Section 11A or anywhere else in Southeastern Alaska through the 2023/24 season. The Board finds that, particularly when measured over the years of closure following the last two openings, that the commercial red/blue king crab fishery in Section 11A is not economically significant and that due to the demand for personal use harvest in Section 11A, the section can no longer support both a personal use and commercial red/blue king crab fishery. The Board finds that significant portions of Section 11A have been completely closed to commercial red/blue king crab harvest (i.e. Auke Bay, Gastineau Channel, etc.) with little to no economic impact. The Board finds that many personal users residing in the vicinity of Section 11A do not have capabilities to safely fish for king crab outside of Section 11A (particularly in winter) and that commercial vessels and gear allow safer king crab fishing outside Section 11A in any season. The Board finds that nearly 100% of brown king crab in Southeastern Alaska are primarily harvest by commercial permit holders and that other species of king crab should be prioritized for personal users over commercial permit holders. The Board finds that protecting red/blue king crab stocks from commercial harvest in Section 11A will help to simplify management and ensure a more sustainable resource for personal users.

(b) When managing red/blue king crab in Section 11A, the Board authorizes the department to conduct the personal use fishery as follows:

1. July 1 through September 30 (Summer Season) - 70% of the red/blue king crab guideline harvest level
2. October 1 through March 31 - 30% of the red/blue king crab guideline harvest level

(c) The personal use red/blue king crab fishery should be conducted so that the established seasons last as long as possible within the allocation plan described in (b) of this section. To accomplish this, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, a personal use red/blue king crab season, an immediately reopen a personal use red/blue king crab season, during which any of the following restrictions, selected at the discretion of the commissioner, are in effect:

1. The daily bag and possession limit is between one and three male king crab per person
2. No more than one pot per personal use permit holder may be used to take king crab
3. No more than two pots per personal use permit holder may be used to take king crab
4. No more than three pots per vessel may be used to take king crab
5. A seasonal per household limit for king crab is established by the commissioner

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Board of Fish to provide enhanced protection of red and blue king crab stocks in Section 11A of Southeastern Alaska by prohibiting commercial fishing in Section 11A. Section 11A is the area immediately surrounding the community of Juneau and is subject to limited personal use seasons of just a few days with extremely limited daily and seasonal bag limits. Based on data presented in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fishery Management Report No. 21-08, "Management Report for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Red and Blue King Crab Fisheries, 2017/18 - 2019/20" (copy attached), commercial red/blue king crab openings in Southeastern Alaska have historically (starting with the 1984/85 season) led to closures in the year(s)

immediately following the commercial opening (see Table 1.1, p. 13). The impact of commercial red/blue king crab fisheries has become even more clear over the past two decades, as each commercial opening has been followed by multi-year closures after the 2005/06, 2011/12 and 2017/18 seasons. In fact, the commercial red/blue king crab fishery has not opened since the 2017/18 season and personal use red/blue king crabbing has also been closed or severely restricted in areas throughout Southeastern Alaska since that season.

Personal use limit reductions following commercial openings have been the most severe in Section 11A. Shortly after the 2005/06 commercial red/blue king crab season, personal use limits were reduced from 40 per household per year for the summer and winter seasons to 26 in 2006/07, 10 in 2007/08, 10 in 2008/09, and then to zero for two years until 2010/11 when the season was reopened with a 4 crab per year household limit (see Table 1.4, p. 16). Then the personal use annual limit for red/blue king crab was reduced to zero for four seasons following the 2011/12 commercial red/blue king crab opening. The annual household personal use limit for red/blue king crab has remained dismally low to the present date in Section 11A. This data illustrates the devastating impact of commercial red/blue king crabbing in Southeastern Alaska.

It is also noteworthy that the economic impact of the commercial red/blue king crab fishery has been significantly reduced since the 2011/12 commercial season. Only 7 commercial permits were fished in 2011/12 with a catch representing about 6% of the total harvest and just 13 permits were fished in 2017/18 with a catch representing about 19% of the total harvest. Nearly all of the harvestable brown king crab stocks in Southeastern Alaska are taken by commercial interests and it is unlikely that this will change due to limitations in sport gear/vessels to effectively participate in brown king crab fisheries.

With the increased personal use demand in Section 11A, the waning economic value of the red/blue king crab commercial fishery in Section 11A, and the need to provide improved protection for red/blue king crab stocks, it makes sense to restrict commercial king crabbing in section 11A and manage it solely for personal use.

This proposal does not aim to shut down commercial red/blue king crabbing in Southeastern Alaska. All of the remaining sections will be eligible for commercial blue/red king crab harvest in the event the crab populations meet the guideline harvest levels.

Another aspect of this proposal is to change the way the commissioner limits the number of pots that can be fished. Current regulation directs the commissioner to restrict the number of pots per vessel. It should be based on the permit holder. Restricting the number of pots based on the vessel forces unnecessary inefficiencies and reduced catch rates. It would be more cost efficient if a few friends who each have a household permit were allowed to coordinate their resources on a single vessel. Not only would this allow for savings associated with fuel, vessel wear and tear, etc., it would increase safety by reducing the inherent risks of having each household permit holder run their own boat out to check a single pot. If the pot gets flipped on its side, as many lightweight sport pots do, the trip is wasted. The personal use annual limit has been set at one or two crab per household; why not allow for the most cost-efficient harvest? This proposal aims to allow each personal use household permit holder to fish a pot while maintaining a reasonable 3-pot limit per vessel. ADF&G staff may say that having more pots would be difficult to police and that there are

stories of personal users calling friends to come out with their permit when they get a good haul of king crab, but ADF&G staff have also said that Section 11A has some of the best numbers for new recruits of anywhere in Southeastern Alaska, so the management is working. If personal use was having a major impact on crab populations, Section 11A, which has the highest number of personal users anywhere in Southeastern would not be such a success story.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is submitted via Territorial Sportsman Inc.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen Inc (EF-F24-102)

PROPOSAL 243

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan; 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 77.664 Personal use king crab fishery.

Adopt a biologically based harvest strategy for the commercial red and blue king crab fishery along with a bag and possession limit maximum for the personal use fishery and adopt new management measures for the red and blue king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan is repealed and readopted to read:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red and Blue King Crab Harvest Strategy.

(a) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open the red and blue king crab fishery only if the department’s preseason biomass estimate of legal male red and blue king crab equals at least 50 percent of the median biomass estimate of legal males.

(b) If the commercial red and blue king crab fishery is open under (a) of this section, and the preseason biomass estimate of legal males is:

(1) at least 50 percent but less than 100 percent of the median biomass estimate of legal males, then the biomass of legal males available for harvest will not exceed $0.1 \times LMB \times (LMB/LMB_{MED})$, where “LMB” is equal to the current year preseason biomass estimate of legal males, and “LMB_{MED}” is equal to the median biomass estimate of legal males;

(2) equal to or greater than the LMB_{MED}, the biomass of legal males available for harvest will not exceed 10 percent of the preseason estimate of LMB.

(c) In implementing this harvest strategy, the department shall consider the reliability of biomass estimates of red and blue king crab, the manageability of the fishery, and other factors the department determines important to manage the fishery consistent with sustained yield principles; and shall use the best scientific information available and consider all sources of uncertainty as necessary to avoid overfishing.

(d) In Registration Area A, the holder of a CFEC permit for red and blue king crab may not retain more king crab in the directed fishery than the annual amount of king crab individual catch limit (ICL) that is specified by the department. The department shall determine the annual amount of king crab ICL by dividing the annual total allowable catch by the number of CFEC permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. The department shall use the best available information, including harvest rate and biological data, to set the

total allowable catch.

(e) Any commercial and personal use harvest that exceeds the permit holder's ICL established under (d) of this section will be reported as an overage on an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of delivery and immediately surrendered to the state. All proceeds from the sale of excess king crab shall be surrendered to the state.

(f) Except as provided in (a) – (e) of this section, when the biomass of legal males available for harvest is equal to or greater than 200,000 lb, a competitive fishery may open.

(g) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated may not exceed pot limits as described in 5 AAC 34.125(b)(1).

(h) Based on inseason information, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close a fishing season.

(i) For the purposes of this section,

(1) "preseason biomass estimate" means the sum of surveyed and non surveyed biomass estimates of legal male red and blue king crab present at the time of the preseason survey as estimated directly by the catch survey analysis method from annual pot survey data;

(2) "legal males" means all male red and blue king crab at least 7 inches or greater in width of shell.

(2) "ICL" means individual catch limits.

(j) The provisions of this section do not apply after January 24, 2028.

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan. Repealed __/__/__. [(a) THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA RED KING CRAB FISHERY SHALL BE MANAGED CONSISTENTLY WITH THE BOARD'S "POLICY ON KING AND TANNER CRAB RESOURCE MANAGEMENT" (90-04-FB, MARCH 23, 1990), ADOPTED BY THIS REFERENCE, AND ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THIS SECTION.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE AN AREA IF THE ABUNDANCE OF VARIOUS SIZES OF MALE AND FEMALE CRABS IS INADEQUATE TO PROVIDE FOR A SUSTAINED HARVEST, OR WHEN POTENTIALLY HIGH EFFORT PRECLUDES AN ORDERLY FISHERY.

(c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLOSE THE FISHERY IF THE DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE OF THE AVAILABLE HARVEST IS BELOW THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD OF 200,000 POUNDS OF LEGAL MALE RED KING CRAB.

(d) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE HARVEST RATE BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE FISHERY. THE HARVEST RATE IS THE PERCENTAGE OF THE LEGAL MALES THAT CAN BE HARVESTED WHILE PROVIDING FOR THE LONG-TERM REPRODUCTIVE VIABILITY OF RED KING CRAB STOCKS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BASE THE HARVEST RATE ON ESTIMATES OF ABUNDANCE OF THE VARIOUS SIZE CLASSES OF MALE AND FEMALE CRABS, AND ON FACTORS AFFECTING THE REPRODUCTIVE VIABILITY OF THE STOCK.

(e) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL BEFORE EACH FISHING SEASON. THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL IS THE SUM OF THE ESTIMATES OF SUSTAINABLE HARVEST FOR EACH FISHING

DISTRICT. IF STOCK ASSESSMENT DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL WILL BE BASED ON HISTORICAL FISHERY PERFORMANCE, CATCH, AND POPULATION INFORMATION. A LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT.]

5 AAC 34.125(b)(1)(A) is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

...

(b) The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area A:

(1) during the commercial red king crab season, the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab is as follows:

(A) **through January 24, 2028**, no more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is less than 399,999 [AT LEAST 200,000 BUT NOT MORE THAN 399,999] lb;

5 AAC 34.126(b) is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A.

...

(b) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for **the red and blue king crab fishery**, [OR FOR] the golden king crab **fishery, or the** [AND] Tanner crab [FISHERIES] **fishery**, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing season.

5 AAC 77.664 Personal use king crab fishery.

...

(b) Except as specified in (e) of this section, and through January 24, 2028, the daily bag and possession limit is three male crab per person; if the **preseason biomass estimate of legal male** [REGIONWIDE HARVESTABLE BIOMASS OF MATURE] red and blue king crab is less than 50 percent of the **median** surveyed and non-surveyed biomass estimate of legal males [BELOW 200,000 POUNDS], the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce the bag and possession limit of red and blue king crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, a commercial red and blue king crab fishery will not open in Southeast Alaska if the estimated biomass of legal male red king crab is below 200,000 lb. This threshold was developed so that the department could manage the fishery without exceeding the guideline harvest level (GHL). At lower abundance levels, prosecuting a fishery where registered permit holders could not exceed an individual catch limit (ICL) would allow the department to conduct a modest fishery with little risk while targeting a GHL less than 200,000 lb; the GHL would continue to be developed from the annual crab surveys conducted around Southeast Alaska, which have been done for more than 40 years. In tandem with the commercial elements, the personal use fishery would not have a 200,000 lb trigger. This proposal seeks to provide the department with a mechanism to adjust the bag limit based on preseason estimates of biomass that are the same as used in the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-149)

Tanner crab

PROPOSAL 244

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Change the criteria for setting the season start date for the Registration Area A Tanner crab commercial fishery to fall within the smallest set of falling tides between February 10 and 17.

Set the season start date for Tanner crab in Southeast Alaska to the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set the season start date for the Tanner crab fishing season on the smallest set of falling tides between the 10th and 17th of February. This will allow fishermen to start fishing before the tides have started rising, and finish the season, when participating in core areas, before the peak of the tide cycle. This will allow for easier pot retrieval, less risk of gear interaction, and less potential gear loss.

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

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-118)

PROPOSAL 245

5 AAC 35.110. Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Change the start time for the Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery from 12:00 noon to 8:00 a.m. on the day the fishery opens.

The commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska will begin at 8 am.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start time for the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery start time from 12 noon to 8 am. By changing the start time, it will allow for more daylight hours for fishermen to set and haul their pots on the first day.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-067)

PROPOSAL 246

5 AAC 35.110 Fishing season for Registration Area A.

Add freezing spray to the criteria that would delay the start date of commercial Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A.

The commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska season start date can be delayed for freezing spray conditions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for a delayed season start to the Southeast Alaska Tanner crab for freezing spray warnings concerns. Currently there is a regulation that allows for a delayed start to the golden king crab season for high winds, by also allowing for freezing spray conditions, it creates a safer environment for fishermen to start the fishery in.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-066)

PROPOSAL 247

5 AAC 35.127. Tanner crab gear storage requirements for Registration Area A.

Increase the depth that Registration Area A commercial Tanner crab fishery pots can be stored to 20 fathoms.

Allow for commercial fishing pot storage out to 20 fathoms in depth for the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the storage depth for Tanner crab pots from 10 fathoms to 20 fathoms in Southeast Alaska. This will allow more space for fishermen to store their gear so that they do not have to have stored gear near other vessels gear.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-065)

PROPOSAL 248

5 AAC 35.053 Operation of other pot gear.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Tanner crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 35.053(c)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open Tanner crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Tanner crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known

as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Tanner crab.

Currently a vessel fishing for Tanner crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of Tanner crab pots from his limit(80 pots)for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-F24-150)

PROPOSAL 249

5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow Tanner crab commercial fishery participants to operate pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport fisheries after unregistering from the commercial fishery, as follows:

(1) May not use Tanner crab gear for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in the registration area during the 14 days immediately following the closure of the tanner crab fishery unless

(A) the person removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or

(B) commercial Tanner pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's Tanner registration; or

(2) may not operate, for commercial, subsistence, sport, or personal use fishing in that registration area during the 14 days immediately following the close of the Tanner crab fishery, a vessel that was used or operated by the person or by another person in the commercial Tanner crab fishery in the Tanner crab registration area unless

(A)the person who used or operated the vessel in the commercial Tanner crab fishery removes all commercial Tanner crab pots from the water or puts the pots in storage, and contacts, in person, the local representative of the department in the registration area and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled, and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration; or

(B) commercial Tanner crab pots are lawful gear for another fishery, the person who operates the pots holds a valid ADF&G or CFEC permit for the other fishery, and the person who used or operated the vessel contacts, in person, the local representative of the department and makes a request that the vessel's Tanner crab registration be canceled and the department cancels the vessel's tanner crab registration.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow for fishermen to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport without having to wait 14 days after the closure of

the Southeast Alaska commercial Tanner crab fishery. Currently, by regulation, the commercial Tanner crab fishery in Southeast Alaska ends on March 31st and fishermen are not allowed to use any form of pot gear for the 14 days following the March 31st closure. Most fishermen that participate in the fishery are done after the “core” season, which is normally open for 5-7 days depending on the stock assessment. Even if the season starts on February 17th, those fishermen are done before the end of February, but must wait until mid-April before they are allowed to use pot gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport purposes.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by PVOA with assistance from Adam Messmer at ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) (HQ-F24-068)

Dungeness crab

PROPOSAL 250

5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery and 5 AAC 77.662. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.

Reduce the minimum size limit for male Dungeness crab from six and one-half inches to six and one-quarter inches in the Registration A subsistence and personal use fisheries.

Reduce the minimum size limit for male Dungeness crab from 6 ½ inches to 6 ¼ inches in subsistence and personal use fisheries.

5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery.

In the subsistence taking of Dungeness crab,

(2) only male Dungeness crab is **six and one-quarter** [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;

5 AAC 77.662. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.

In the personal use taking of Dungeness crab,

(3) the minimum legal size for male Dungeness crab is **six and one-quarter** [SIX AND ONE-HALF] inches in shoulder width; 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;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In some areas, mature male crab 6 ½ inches or greater are in limited abundance from season to season or during certain times of the year. There are mature Dungeness crab less than legal size limit that available for harvest. Reducing the size limit for residents Alaska would help meet their needs and may alleviate the need for commercial closures. Along the Pacific coast, size limits for non-commercial harvest are less than for commercial harvest. A 6 ¼ inch Dungeness is still a mature male.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes

(EF-F24-151)

PROPOSAL 251

5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Change the start date of the Registration Area A Dungeness crab commercial fishery's summer season from June 15 to July 1.

5 AAC 32.110 Fishing seasons for Registration Area A

In Registration Area A, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only as follows: (1) From 8:00 a.m. **July 1** [June 15] through 11:59 p.m. August 15 and from 8:00 a.m. October 1 through 11 :59 p.m. November 30, in all waters of Registration Area A other than those waters specified in (2) and (3) of this section;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the start of the Dungeness crab season from 8:00 a.m. June 15 to 8:00 a.m. July 1.

The problem is that crabs are often still in a soft-shell condition at the beginning of the season. Moving the season opening to July 1 will give them more time to fill out into a much more marketable condition and will greatly reduce handling mortality in this vulnerable state.

ADF&G is not allowed to delay the start of the season, only to close it early if certain catch thresholds are not met. It takes 10 to 14 days for ADF&G to gather information on the fishery to determine if the season will be shortened. The minimum threshold policy is for a gauge of abundance, not shell condition. There is no mechanism to close the season based on shell condition. **If the shell condition is soft, we continue to fish regardless to the detriment of the resource.**

An example of this was the 2021 season, the crabs were very soft on opening day and for a large portion of the summer season. The summer season saw record high prices and increased effort from the fleet. Gear was being hauled and turned over as quickly as possible with the high market conditions. The crabs were abundant and soft. The catch rates were good and thresholds were met. We fished a full season and pounded the resource due to the high dollar value. Fishermen and processors understood we were fishing and selling a poor-quality product. Many processors were willing to risk buying "lite" crab from fishermen as the market demand was high. This practice is not healthy for the resource nor to the fishermen in the long run. Unfortunately, this came back to bite us in the butt.

It is well documented that soft crab experience much greater handling mortality than "hard" crab. (ADF&G; Handling Increases Mortality of Soft-Shell Dungeness Crabs, 1993 Gordon H. Kruse) Soft, unmarketable crabs that crawl into the pots are tossed back into the water and are repeatedly caught. The consequences of this was a high mortality of soft crab due to handling. Not just legal, but sub-legal as well.

The summer 21 season resulted in a great number of recruits and sub-legal recruits being killed due to high handling mortality. This showed up in the fall '21 season and in the 2022-23 season. The '22-23 season harvest was 2 million lbs., 45% lower than the 3.7 million lbs. in the '21-22 season. Also, the market value dropped almost 2/3rds, from \$15. 7 to \$5.4 M. This was the result of fishing on soft crab the previous year and a sub-standard product making it to the market. Processors were stuck with a bunch of "lite" crab, ie soft, in storage and the market responded with rejecting the high prices that processors sought, after paying top dollar for soft, "lite" crab. This resulted in the dock price being cut from \$4.25/lb in '21, to \$2.60/lb. in the summer and \$2.00 in the fall of the'22/23 season. Further, the summer '22/23 season was also closed two and a half weeks early due to lack of abundance (the recruits that did not survive handling from the fishery from the 2021 season). These poor market conditions held through the year and the 2023-24 season dock price for fishermen was \$2.00/lb. By fishing on soft crab in summer 2021 we basically sacrificed the next two seasons at least.

As I recall, back in the late '70s or early '80s, the BOF changed and reduced the Dungeness season from a year-round fishery to June 1 through February 28. In the mid '80s, BOF again changed the season to July 1 through February 28. On the next cycle, the BOF once again changed the season and split it to the current June 15- August 15, October 1- November 30. All these changes and reduced seasons were met with opposition from the crab fleet and processors.

In summary, moving the start of the season to July 1 will greatly help the condition of the crab and reduce the high mortality rate due to handling. Thus, resulting in a higher quality product and much less chance of devastating the stock for future seasons. The boom-and-bust cycle will be greatly reduced and healthier for the resource.

Many will oppose this, but I think it is more important to manage the resource and not the fishermen. With every change to a given fishery, fishermen always seem to adjust. Statistics are from ADF&G website.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. My proposal developed with talking to other Dungeness crabbers.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Traibush (HQ-F24-100)

PROPOSAL 252

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a vessel participating in a Registration Area A Dungeness crab fishery to operate groundfish coil spring pots to catch bait.

5 AAC 32.128(d)

(c) a person or vessel may operate coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait during an open Dungeness crab season in Registration Area A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a vessel fishing for Dungeness crab in Southeast Alaska to be able to use coil spring groundfish pots, commonly known as slinky pots, for bait in accordance with 5 AAC 28.190 without having to reduce the number of pots used to fish for Dungeness crab.

Currently a vessel fishing for Dungeness crab may use slinky pots for bait but must give up an equal number of Dungeness crab pots from his limit (300, 225, 150, or 75 pots depending on the permit size) for every slinky pot the vessel uses.

If the vessel was so inclined, they could use longline skates of gear for bait without giving up any pots. Slinky pots are much less cumbersome to use and also have the benefit of less bycatch.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Conversations with Department staff and fellow permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-F24-152)

PROPOSAL 253

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

A permit holder intending on fishing Dungeness crab on June 15 is allowed to keep spot shrimp pot fishing until then. By informing F&G that is what they're doing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change rule about not being able to run pots (ie commercial spot shrimp fishery) 2 weeks before commercial dungeness crab fishery opens (June 15).

Why...Many commercial spot shrimp fishermen, are also commercial dungeness card holders. The recent regime change in the spot shrimp fishery (opening May 15 instead of October 1) has had the unintended consequence of mandating that a person stop shrimp pot fishing by June 1, if they intend to dungeness fish on June 15.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. After talking extensively with F&G managers about this (yet again) unintended consequence of changing the spot shrimp pot fishery from October 1 to May 15.....they explained to me that this is a change that's out of they're hands & requires BOF house cleaning.

PROPOSED BY: Robert T. Mosher (EF-F24-045)

PROPOSAL 254

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 32.128. Operations of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, or commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Intent to remove regulation that complicates fishing between crab and shrimp, due to season changes. The current regulation is now outdated and there is no biological reason to prevent the operation of commercial shrimp pots before the Dungeness crab season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes with other commercial Dungeness crab and shrimp fisherman. Due to season changes we have experienced financial distress because we are unable to properly conduct both fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Chris McMurren (EF-F24-079)

PROPOSAL 255

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial, personal use, or subsistence shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

Allowing the shrimp pot fishery **Only** for subsistence and commercial use in the 2 week time period prior to the Commercial Dungeness season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal is in regards to the shrimp season getting cut short for individual that both crab and shrimp. The 14 day no pots of any kind prior to Dungeness has hampered the ability to shrimp a full season. I fully understand no other crab gear of any kind 14 days prior to the commercial season, but in 5 years of commercial pot shrimping I have never caught a crab. It's a costly process to stack out when there is open area to shrimp.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This has been the most talked about topic between fishermen with both crab and shrimp permits and we have all agreed on wanting to see a change. It would benefit these small communities and small business families immensely.

I had a personal phone call from ADFG telling me there was quota left on the grounds in an area I fish and he recommended keeping the gear in the water, but I couldn't do to the overlap with the gear cut off for Dungeness season. It was costly, but it's a new gamble we take with the season change as fishermen in hopes of a good crab season.

PROPOSED BY: Dawson Miller (EF-F24-081)

PROPOSAL 256

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. In addition, permit holders may not register and participate in the Dungeness and shrimp pot commercial fisheries concurrently.

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

(b) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery if

(1) the person removes from the water the pots that are used and marked for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, or stores the pots as specified in 5 AAC 32.052; and

(2) the vessel owner, or the owner's agent, contacts a local representative of the department, in person, and requests that the department cancel the vessel's commercial Dungeness crab registration.

(c) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053(d), 5 AAC 34.053(2), and 5 AAC 35.053(2), a person or vessel may operate commercial king crab or Tanner crab pots during an open Dungeness crab season in Registration Area A if a commercial king crab or Tanner crab season is open in Registration Area A at the same time as the commercial Dungeness crab season.

(d) Notwithstanding 5AAC 32.053 a person or vessel that participates in the commercial pot shrimp fishery in Registration Area A during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A may cancel their pot shrimp registration and register for and participate in the Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A if

(1) the person removes from the water the pots that are used and marked for the commercial pot shrimp fishery; and

(2) the vessel owner, or the owner's agent, contacts a local representative of the department, in person, and requests that the department cancel the vessel's and permit holder's commercial pot shrimp registration.

5AAC 31.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 31.053(d), 5 AAC 34.053(2), and 5 AAC 35.053(2), a person or vessel may operate commercial king crab or Tanner crab pots during an open pot shrimp season in Registration Area A if a commercial king crab or Tanner crab season is open in Registration Area A at the same time as the commercial pot shrimp season.

(b) In an area open to fishing for shrimp, a vessel operator may not operate more than the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e), including commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence shrimp pots.

(c) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial shrimp pot fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for a shrimp fishery and register for a different shrimp fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

(d) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

(e) A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial pot shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. A vessel owner, or the owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial pot shrimp fishery and register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to allow a person holding a pot shrimp permit and Dungeness pot permit to be able to fish longer than the first 15 days of the shrimp fishery and still be able to participate in the Dungeness crab fishery if they remove all their shrimp pots from the water, cancel their registration from the shrimp fishery, and then register for the Dungeness crab fishery.

A legal Dungeness crab is unlikely to be caught in a shrimp pot with the definitions provided in regulation in SE Alaska for legal shrimp pots and legal Dungeness crab pot gear (5AAC 32.050 & 5AAC 32.125 (f))

With the change in the shrimp pot fishery to a springtime start, a Dungeness crab pot and shrimp pot permit holder wishing to participate in both fisheries may only participate in the shrimp pot fishery until May 31st as they may not have any pot gear of any type in the water 14 days prior to the start of the Dungeness crab fishery on June 15 (5AAC 32.053). This means a permit holder or vessel participating in both the shrimp pot and Dungeness pot fishery is only allowed to participate in the shrimp fishery the first 14 or 15 days. It was also unclear when the 14 day standdown period starts and is dependent upon individual Alaska Wildlife Trooper's interpretation to whether it is 8:00 am June 1st or 12:59 pm on May 31. Both fisheries require registration and have regulations in place for de-registering when a fisherman is done participating.

5AAC 31.053 (d) Operation of Other pot gear (SE Shrimp regulations) allows a person and or vessel to stop participating in a commercial shrimp fishery and instead operate other commercial pots if they remove all the gear and contacts a representative of the Dept in person and de-registers.

We considered an alternative solution to achieve this goal by changing

5AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, **or operates commercial shrimp pots,** during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

We went with the proposed option because fishermen tend to read the section of the regulation book for the area they fish and don't always catch statewide regulations, so thought our proposed

language similar to language proposed more recently in the shrimp fishery made it clearer to the fishermen all the responsibilities of having the pots out of the water and canceling the registration in one fishery before activating the registration for the next fishery

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

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fisherman Alliance (HQ-F24-081)

PROPOSAL 257

5 AAC 32.128 Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Registration Area A commercial Dungeness crab fishery if they operated commercial shrimp pots during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

The solution is to include in **5 AAC 32.128**, language that will allow pot shrimpers to fish in the 14 days immediately before the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery.

Please amend 5 AAC 32.128 to read;

5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms, **or operates commercial shrimp pots**, during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The problem is, those who have both SE Dungeness crab and SE pot Shrimp permits are not allowed the opportunity to fully utilize their permits. Currently, anyone who participates in both the pot shrimp and Dungeness crab fisheries is required to have all shrimp gear out of the water 14 days before the start of the Dungeness fishery.

The pot shrimp season opens May 15th and closes by regulation on July 31st. The more productive districts are closed before July 31 by emergency order from ADF&G as GHLS for each district are caught. Districts that have remaining GHLS at the end of the summer season may or may not re-open Oct. 1 by emergency order from ADF&G. The Dungeness season is open June 15 thru August 15, and opens again in the fall on Oct. 1st. The current Regulations force those fishermen who have both permits to either give up an entire Dungeness season, (June 15-Aug.15) or give up 2 weeks of shrimp fishing in June.

There is no gear conflict between the two fisheries, as the definitions and regulations on gear are clear and unique to each of the fisheries.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal is my own. With the change of the commercial shrimp season by the BOF last cycle, from Oct 1 to May 15, I was forced to be done shrimp fishing by the 1st of June in order to participate in the Dungeness fishery. Some productive areas remained open into June but I chose to fish Dungeness and therefore was required to stop fishing shrimp.

PROPOSAL 258

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Open some or all areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A, as follows:

Rescind some if not all closed areas to commercial Dungeness fishing and adopt proposal reducing minimum size limit for Alaska residents. [*Note from Boards Support: this author's proposed changes to size limits can be found in Proposal 250 (EF-F24-151)*]

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

In Registration Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab:

(1) waters of Section 11-A that are

(A) north of a line from Marmion Island Light to the easternmost tip of Point Salisbury and east of a line extending from the northernmost tip of Outer Point to the southernmost tip of Portland Island to the northernmost tip of Portland Island to the southernmost tip of Point Louisa; and

(B) off the mainland shore enclosed by a line from the northernmost tip of the peninsula at the Shrine of St. Terese to Gull Island, extending to the Sentinel Island Light, and east to the mainland at the latitude of the Sentinel Island Light;

(2) waters of Tenakee Inlet west of Corner Bay Point at 135° 06.50' W. long. and east of the Crab Bay log transfer facility at 135° 18.18' W. long.;

(3) waters of Port Althorp enclosed by a line from Point Lucan to 58° 09.71' N. lat., 136° 19.67' W. long.;

(4) waters of Merrifield Bay and Port Protection enclosed by a line extending west from Protection Head (56° 18.83' N. lat., 133° 39.77' W. long.) to 133° 40' W. long., then north to 56° 22' N. lat., then east to 133° 34' W. long., then south to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 56° 21.05' N. lat., 133° 34' W. long.;

(5) waters of Thorne Bay west of the longitude of the easternmost tip of Thorne Head;

(6) waters of Icy Passage enclosed by a line starting from the northernmost end of the Gustavus Dock to the southernmost end of the Gustavus Dock to the navigational buoy off the mouth of the Salmon River to an (ADF&G) marker on the shoreline directly north of the buoy and then along the shoreline to the starting point;

(7) waters of Blank Inlet north and west of a line from Blank Point to Blank Island Light to the easternmost point tip of Gravina Point;

(8) waters of Bostwick Inlet north and west of a line from Bostwick Point to an unnamed point at 55° 12.83' N. lat., 131° 43.92' W. long.;

(9) waters of Mud (Flat) Bay west of the longitude of a point at 59° 09.03' N. lat., 135° 19.97' W. long.;

(10) from December 1 through September 30, the waters of District 13-B that are in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area, which is that area of Sitka Sound enclosed on the north by lines from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22.05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and from Chichagof Island at 57° 22.58' N. lat., 135° 41.30' W. long. to Baranof Island at 57° 22.28' N. lat., 135° 40.95' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point at 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long.;

(11) [WATERS OF TWELVE-MILE ARM WEST OF A LINE FROM 55° 30.01' N. LAT., 132° 35.22' W. LONG., TO 55° 28.61' N. LAT., 132° 34.62' W. LONG., AND NORTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM 55° 26.41' N. LAT., 132° 40.05' W. LONG., TO 55° 26.33' N. LAT., 132° 39.53' W. LONG.]

(12) waters east of a line from Indian Point at 55° 36.85' N. lat., 131° 42.02' W. long., to the northeasternmost tip of Betton Island at 55° 31.95' N. lat., 131° 46.37' W. long. to the southeasternmost tip of Betton Island at 55° 29.90' N. lat., 131° 48.18' W. long., to Survey Point at 55° 28.07' N. lat., 131° 49.87' W. long.;

(13) waters east of a line from Point Lena at 58° 23.73' N. lat., 134° 46.67' W. long., north to 58° 25.05' N. lat., 134° 46.25' W. long., north to 58° 25.65' N. lat., 134° 46' W. long. (a point in upper Tee Harbor);

(14) waters east of a line in Bridget Cove from 58° 37.05' N. lat., 134° 56.60' W. long., north to 58° 38.20' N. lat., 134° 57.10' W. long.;

(15) repealed 7/29/2009;

(16) repealed 7/29/2009;

(17) waters of Port Frederick enclosed by a line from a point on Chichagof Island at 58° 05.18' N. lat., 135° 28.15' W. long. to the westernmost tip of Long Island at 58° 05.81' N. lat., 135° 28.56' W. long. to a point south of Hoonah Point at 58° 07.13' N. lat., 135° 27.52' W. long.;

(18) waters of Favorite Bay enclosed by a line from a point at 57° 28.91' N. lat., 134° 32.21' W. long. to a point at 57° 29.05' N. lat., 134° 31.17' W. long.;

(19) the waters near and surrounding Klawock enclosed by a line from a point east of Entrance Point at 55° 31.20' N. lat., 133° 07.63' W. long., extending to a point in Shinaku Inlet at 55° 34.72' N. lat., 133° 13.38' W. long.;

(20) in the waters of 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.;

(21) Sukwaan Strait from Saltery Point at 55° 10.95' N. lat., 132° 48.02' W. long., to a point on Sukkwan Island at 55° 10.40' N. lat., 132° 48.62' W. long., north to the head of Natzuhini Bay, extending west to the openings of North Pass from a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55° 12.61' N. lat., 132° 57.68' W. long., to a point on Goat Island at 55° 12.43' N. lat., 132° 56.30' W. long., and South Pass from a point on Goat Island at 55° 10.11' N. lat., 132° 53.60' W. long., to a point on Sukkwan Island at 55° 09.78' N. lat., 132° 53.43' W. long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area available for commercial Dungeness crab fishing is has drastically been reduced over the past decade by sea otters and closures. The productive area available for harvest is too small making it increasingly difficult to have an economically viable fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes

(EF-F24-147)

PROPOSAL 259

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Open all waters closed to commercial Dungeness fishing in Registration Area A between October 1 and November 30, annually.

5 AAC 32.150. Would read;

Closed waters in Registration Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab from Jan 1st-September 30th and from December 1st -31th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To better comply with the State Constitution to make resources available for maximum use consistent with the public interest, all closed areas in Registration area A should remain closed for 10 months of the year, but commercial opportunity available during the fall season.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Bailey

(EF-F24-148)

PROPOSAL 260

5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 35.XXX. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close George Inlet, Carroll Inlet, and Thorne Arm in District 1 to the commercial harvest of shrimp and crab.

All waters East of a line from Mountain Point Light to the northernmost tip of Bold Island, then from the southernmost tip of Bold Island to Cone Point, permanently closed to the commercial taking of any species of crab or shrimp.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider closing the waters of Carroll Inlet, George Inlet, and Thorne Arm to the commercial taking of crab and shrimp. These areas are being overfished by the commercial fleet to the point that, as local residents of the area, we are hard pressed to catch these species for personal, sport, or subsistence use. Every season commercial vessels from other Southeast communities, along with vessels based in Ketchikan, move in to these bays and deploy hundreds and hundreds of pots and leave nothing but undersize and female crab, and make it very hard to catch any shrimp for the rest of us. I see no reason these areas should be open to commercial crab and shrimp fishing. There are plenty of areas they could fish other than in our backyard. Most of us local non commercial users can't afford to, or aren't equipped to go much further than these particular inlets. The commercial fleet can fish elsewhere so that we may have better access to these species in these areas.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. I have not coordinated with others, but I have talked to several local people who adamantly agree with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Mark R Hoyt

(EF-F24-011)

PROPOSAL 261

5 AAC 31.136 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 32.150 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 35.XXX Closed waters in Registration Area A.; 34.150 Closed waters in Registration Area A.; and 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area
Close Traitors Cove to commercial and sport shellfish harvest.

Close Traitors Cove from the mouth of the Cove, East of longitude 131 degrees 41.96 minutes to all shellfish harvest other than personal use and subsistence.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Access to shrimp and crab in Traitors Cove: The shrimp and crab populations in Traitors Cove have diminished. This area is highly important to the local residence of Ketchikan do to the safe moorage at the dock and relatively close proximity to Ketchikan. Do to the safe harbor of the dock it allows local residence to be able to transit to the cove, set pots, spend the night and work the gear without the worry of inclement weather creating a danger to personal use harvesters. A limited number of commercial harvesters and non resident yachters may be affected by the change. It is requested that Traitors Cove be limited to personal use and subsistence shell fish harvesting only.

On a side note the dock allows access to multiple miles of USFS maintained roads that accesses a fresh water lake, berry picking, mushroom harvesting, deer and waterfowl hunting.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, other personal use harvesters have expressed support.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Mattle (EF-F24-174)

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)
