

***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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

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**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 GHL's for each district are caught. Districts that have remaining GHL 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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Traibush

(EF-F24-064)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)

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**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)  
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