

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)
