

Miscellaneous shellfish

PROPOSAL 230

5 AAC 38.XX Southeast Alaska Magister Squid Jig Fishery.

Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid.

A commercial automated squid jig fishery that would have little or no bycatch would open in Southeast Alaska (season to be determined by department. Fishing may be restricted to one of two spawning events, either winter or summer, if it was felt there might be a biological concern regarding the volume of squid harvest). An annual stock report would be provided by the Department from which an annual TAC (Total Annual Catch) would be announced based on catch data provided by commercial logbooks as is done in most squid fisheries. Squid are very short lived (B.Magister in SEAK only live a year) and the biological risk from overharvesting is minimal as this species reproduces quickly and would be resilient to any discovered overharvest. The Department would have the authority to level fees to this fishery if it were deemed necessary to cover any expenses to oversee the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a directed commercial jig fishery for Squid (*Berryteuthis Magister* Armhook Squid) in Southeast Alaska coastal waters. Magister squid is an underutilized species that not only could provide a source of revenue for dwindling commercial fishermen, but also provide a mechanism to control their predation on other economically important commercial species such as all species of salmon, cod fish, and herring.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee voted unanimously to submit this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada & Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (EF-F24-076)

PROPOSAL 231

5 AAC 38.XXX. New Section.

Establish a commercial jig fishery for squid.

A commercial automated squid jig fishery that would have little or no bycatch would open in Southeast Alaska (season to be determined by department. Fishing may be restricted to one of two spawning events, either winter or summer, if it was felt there might be a biological concern regarding the volume of squid harvest). An annual stock report would be provided by the Department from which an annual TAC (Total Annual Catch) would be announced based on catch data provided by commercial logbooks as is done in most squid fisheries. Squid are very short lived (B.Magister in SEAK only live a year) and the biological risk from overharvesting is minimal as this species reproduces quickly and would be resilient to any discovered overharvest. The Department would have the authority to level fees to this fishery if it were deemed necessary to cover any expenses to oversee the fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open a directed commercial jig fishery for Squid (*Berryteuthis Magister* Armhook Squid) in Southeast Alaska coastal waters. Magister squid is an underutilized species that not only could provide a source of revenue for

dwindling commercial fishermen, but also provide a mechanism to control their predation on other economically important commercial species such as all species of salmon, cod fish, and herring.

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

PROPOSED BY: Richard Yamada (HQ-F24-032)

PROPOSAL 232

5 AAC 38.090 (d). Unlawful Possession of Miscellaneous Shellfish Aboard a Vessel.

Allow for the concurrent possession of red and green urchin aboard.

The commissioner may allow the retention of red and green sea urchins concurrently on the same vessel to explore the possibility of a viable combined sea urchin fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 38.090 (d) prohibits a person on a vessel registered to fish for miscellaneous shellfish to possess more than one species of miscellaneous shellfish at any one time. There is interested in red sea urchin harvesters to be able to retain green sea urchins while they are fishing for red sea urchins. The rationale for this is red sea urchin prices are low, red sea urchin populations are declining due to increased sea otter populations and declines in kelp abundance. Due to sky rocketing fuel and supply costs in the past few years, it is becoming cost-prohibitive to fish solely for red sea urchins. If divers were allowed to harvest red and green sea urchins concurrently, it may make the fishery viable again. Green sea urchins are highly valuable species in other areas (Maine and Japan for example) and allowing retention of green urchins along with reds would allow dive harvesters to see if a green urchin fishery is viable in SE Alaska.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, the SE Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association Sea Urchin committee and Ketchikan ADFG management biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F24-093)
