

**PROPOSAL 179**

**5 AAC 34.612. Harvest levels for golden king crab in Registration Area O.**

Adopt a new Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest strategy, as follows:

Detailed description and analytical review of draft harvest strategy scenarios will be provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game prior to the March 2019 Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current Aleutian Islands golden king crab harvest strategy uses a fixed Total Allowable Catch (TAC) that may be modified only to ensure for adequate protection of the stock. An Aleutian Islands golden king crab stock assessment model has been in development since the mid-2000s. After substantial review, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Crab Plan Team and Scientific and Statistical Committee recently adopted an Aleutian Islands golden king crab stock assessment model that provides annual estimates of crab biomass and a better understanding of stock status and this model is now used to establish Overfishing Levels and Allowable Biological Catch. Once the model was adopted, department staff started development of a new harvest strategy that uses model estimates to establish annual harvest limits. Adopting a harvest strategy that uses annual assessment results will reduce uncertainty in the TAC setting process, improve yield for fishery participants, and provide for stock conservation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (formerly ACR #3)  
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