

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the Request Board Member Ruffner

March 10, 2019

Substitute Language for Proposal 179:

**[5 AAC 34.612. HARVEST LEVELS FOR GOLDEN KING CRAB IN REGISTRATION AREA O.**

(a) UNTIL THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GOLDEN KING CRAB STOCK ASSESSMENT MODEL AND A STATE REGULATORY HARVEST STRATEGY ARE ESTABLISHED, THE HARVEST LEVELS FOR THE REGISTRATION AREA O GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) EAST OF 174° W. LONG.: 3.31 MILLION POUNDS; AND
- (2) WEST OF 174° W. LONG.: 2.98 MILLION POUNDS.

(b) THE DEPARTMENT MAY MODIFY THE HARVEST LEVELS IN (A) OF THIS SECTION BASED ON THE BEST SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE, IN CONSIDERING THE RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES, UNCERTAINTY AS NECESSARY TO AVOID OVERFISHING, AND ANY OTHER FACTORS NECESSARY TO BE CONSISTENT WITH SUSTAINED YIELD PRINCIPLES.] Repealed.

**5 AAC 34.612. Harvest levels for golden king crab in Registration Area O. In accordance with 5 AAC 34.080, the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery shall be managed based on the following harvest strategy:**

- (a) **In that portion of the Registration Area O east of 174° W. long., the total allowable catch level shall be established as follows:**
  - (1) **if  $MMA_E$  is less than 25 percent of  $MMA_{E,(1985-2017)}$ , the fishery will not open;**
  - (2) **if  $MMA_E$  is at least 25 percent but not greater than 100 percent of  $MMA_{E,(1985-2017)}$ , the number of legal male golden king crab available for harvest will be computed as  $(0.15) \times (MMA_E / MMA_{E,(1985-2017)}) \times (MMA_E)$  or 25 percent of  $LMA_E$ , whichever is less; and**
  - (3) **if  $MMA_E$  is greater than 100 percent of  $MMA_{E,(1985-2017)}$ , the number of legal male golden king crab available for harvest will be computed as  $(0.15) \times (MMA_E)$  or 25 percent of  $LMA_E$ , whichever is less.**
- (b) **In that portion of the Registration Area O west of 174° W. long., the total allowable catch level shall be established as follows:**
  - (1) **if  $MMA_W$  is less than 25 percent of  $MMA_{W,(1985-2017)}$ , the fishery will not open**
  - (2) **if  $MMA_W$  is at least 25 percent but not greater than 100 percent of  $MMA_{W,(1985-2017)}$ , the number of legal male golden king crab available for**

- harvest will be computed as  $(0.20) \times (MMA_W / MMA_{W,(1985-2017)}) \times (MMA_W)$  or 25 percent of  $LMA_W$ , whichever is less; and
- (3) if  $MMA_W$  is greater than 100 percent of  $MMA_{W,(1985-2017)}$ , the number of legal male golden king crab available for harvest will be computed as  $(0.20) \times (MMA_W)$  or 25 percent of  $LMA_W$ , whichever is less.
- (c) In implementing this harvest strategy, the department shall consider the reliability of estimates of golden king crab, the manageability of the fishery, and other factors the department determines necessary to be consistent with sustained yield principles and to use the best scientific information available and consider all sources of uncertainty as necessary to avoid overfishing.
- (d) In this section,
- (1)  $MMA_E$  means the abundance of male golden king crab in the portion of the Aleutian Islands Management Area O east of 174° W. long that are greater than or equal to 111 millimeters in carapace length estimated by the stock assessment model for the time prior to the start of the fishery;
  - (2)  $MMA_{E,(1985-2017)}$  means the mean value of the abundance of male golden king crab in the portion of the Aleutian Islands Management Area O east of 174° W. long that are greater than or equal to 111 millimeters in carapace length estimated by the stock assessment model for the time prior to the start of the fishery for the period 1985 – 2017;
  - (3)  $LMA_E$  means the abundance of male golden king crab in the portion of the Aleutian Islands Management Area O east of 174° W. long that are greater than or equal to 136 millimeters in carapace length estimated by the stock assessment model for the time prior to the start of the fishery;
  - (4)  $MMA_W$  means the abundance of male golden king crab in the portion of the Aleutian Islands Management Area O west of 174° W. long that are greater than or equal to 111 millimeters in carapace length estimated by the stock assessment model for the time prior to the start of the fishery;
  - (5)  $MMA_{W,(1985-2017)}$  means the mean value of the abundance of male golden king crab in the portion of the Aleutian Islands Management Area O west of 174° W. long that are greater than or equal to 111 millimeters in carapace length estimated by the stock assessment model for the time prior to the start of the fishery for the period 1985 – 2017;
  - (6)  $LMA_W$  means the abundance of male golden king crab in the portion of the Aleutian Islands Management Area O west of 174° W. long that are greater than or equal to 136 millimeters in carapace length estimated by the stock assessment model for the time prior to the start of the fishery.

#### 5 AAC 34.610. Fishing seasons for Registration Area O

(b) Male golden king crab may be taken only as follows:

- (2) [BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2015,] from 12:00 noon August 1 through 11:59 p.m. April 30, except, the season may open by emergency order on or after July 15 based on the department's evaluation of survey and stock assessment.