

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Southeast and Yakutat Shellfish
January 21-27, 2009, Petersburg, Alaska

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

SPORT SHELLFISH

- F 133 Close Southeast Alaska area to sport fishing for shellfish.
- F 134 Close sport shellfish fishing in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area and restrict charter vessel use May 15-Sept. 15.
- F 135 Require that sport shellfish post and rings be pulled by hand
- F 136 Require tunnel eye openings in sport crab posts not exceed 5 inches in height and prohibit top loading pots for nonresidents
- NA 137 Establish a sport fish bag and possession limit for all species of fish that do not currently have a bag and possession limit. *(No action was taken on the shellfish portion of this proposal. The finfish portion of this proposal is scheduled for the February 2009 meeting in Sitka)*
- NA 138 Establish possession limits for nonresidents at one daily bag limit. [Also see Proposal 368]
- C 139 Reduce the sport bag and possession limit for shrimp.

SHRIMP

Reporting Requirements

- C/A 140 Amend reporting requirements for commercial shrimp fishery in Registration Area A. *(Amended to provide specific regulatory language.)*

Lawful Gear

- F 141 Amend pot limit in Southeast Alaska spot shrimp fishery to 100 pots no larger than 48 inches.
- F 142 Amend shrimp pot size limit to 140 36-inch small pots or 100 48-inch large pots.

Beam Trawl

- F 143 Eliminate the 10 percent trip bycatch limit on coonstripe shrimp for beamtrawlers and replace with a harvest level in pounds for each area or bay.

Closed Waters

- F 144 Close commercial shrimp fishery within 1-mile radius around Sukoi Island.

DUNGENESS CRAB

Size Limits

- F 145 Specify crab measurement devices and allow for broken spines.
- F 146 Allow a 2 percent tolerance for mistakes made in sorting crab.
- C/A 147 Modify sport fish definition on of a legal size Dungeness crab. *(Amended to specify measuring method of Dungeness crab in all Southeast Alaska fisheries.)*

Seasons

- F 148 Change season dates for Dungeness crab fishery.
- C/A 149 Match the season description of Districts 1 and 2 with all other waters of Registration Area A. *(Amended to add a three-year sunset clause.)*
- NA 150 Match the season description of Districts 1 and 2 with all other waters of Registration Area A.

Management Plan

- C 151 Allow flexibility in Dungeness crab management plan if soft shell crab landings significantly affect harvest forecast.

Dual Permit

- C/A 152 Require all permit holders to be onboard vessel when multiple permits are used in Dungeness crab fishery. *(Amended to apply when gear in water, when crab are onboard, or when setting or retrieving gear.)*
- F 153 Prohibit use of two permits in Dungeness crab fishery.

Closed Waters

- F 154 Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in areas closed to commercial fishing.
- C 155 Open commercial Dungeness crab fishing during fall season in Twelve-mile Arm closed area.
- C 156 Reopen Chaik Bay to commercial Dungeness crab fishing.
- F 157 Close waters near Coffman Cove to commercial Dungeness crab fishing during summer months.
- F 158 Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing from the north end Wrangell Narrows to Mountain Point for five years.
- F 159 Close Naukati Bay to commercial crab fishing.

Sport Bag Limits

- C 160 Reduce sport bag and possession limits for Dungeness and tanner crab.

Ecotourism

- F 161 Allow ecotourism clients without sport fishing licenses to handle gear or fish under direct supervision of registered guide.
- C/A 162 Modify regulations that limit the number of pots and lifts in the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport Dungeness crab fishery. *(Amended to allow discretionary authority on pot use.)*
- F 163 Increase number of pots and lifts per vessel in the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport Dungeness crab fishery.

KING AND TANNER CRAB**Subsistence King Crab**

- NA 164 Recognize customary and traditional use of king crab in the Hoonah Area.
- NA 165 Open Port Frederick to subsistence and personal use king crab fishing.

NA 166 Establish a customary and traditional use finding for red king crab in Section 6-A, District 8, and portion of District 10.

NA 167 Designate king crab in Area 13B and 13C as a subsistence resource.

NA 168 Allow subsistence and personal use fishing for red and blue king crab in Peril Straits and allow for reduced bag limit as needed for conservation.

Seasons

C 169 Close personal use and sport season for Tanner crab prior to opening king crab season.

NA 170 Close sport and personal use Tanner crab fisheries prior to start of personal use red and blue king crab fishery.

NA 171 Start personal use king crab season in Hoonah sound July 1.

C 172 Align seasonal closures for red and blue king crab subsistence and personal use fisheries in Yakutat.

Red King Crab

C 173 Change allocation of red and blue king crab to personal use fishery in Section 11.

F 174 Restrict commercial crab fishing in Section 11-A to rebuild stocks.

F 175 Specify a seven day long red and blue king crab fishery in Registration Area A.

C/A 176 Amend bag limit and season for personal use king crab fishery. *(Amended to provide department management flexibility, allow for reduced bag limits, and separated the golden season from the red or blue king crab season.)*

Golden King Crab

C/A 177 Increase seasonal quota for golden king crab in management areas. *(Amended to specify Northern Area up to 175,000 pounds, Icy Strait up to 75,000 pounds, East Central Area up to 300,000 pounds, and Mid-Chatham Strait up to 150,000 pounds.)*

NA 178 Set guideline harvest ranges based on logbook information and dockside sampling.

C/A 179 Allow king crab to be taken in a Tanner pot if both seasons are open and both permits are held. *(Amended to provide specific regulatory language.)*

F 180 Prohibit square pots for taking golden king crab in Southeast Alaska.

Tanner Crab

C/A 181 Modify Tanner crab management plan and reporting requirements. *(Amended to provide specific regulatory language.)*

NA 182 Specify two week long Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A.

C 183 Extend gear storage time to 5 days for Tanner crab fishery in Registration Area A.

Dual Permit

T 184 Allow 120 pots for vessels with two Tanner permits onboard. *(Tabled to board's restructuring committee and scheduled for the 2011/2012 cycle.)*

T/A 185 Allow additional pots if two permits are held. *(Amended and tabled to board's restructuring committee and scheduled for the 2011/2012 cycle.)*

Lawful Gear

- C/A 186 Require escape rings on pots used in personal use, subsistence, and sport fishing for Tanner crab. *(Amended to provide specific regulatory language.)*

MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH**Scallops**

- NA 187 Move opening date in Yakutat District 16 scallop fishery from July 1 to June 1.

Geoducks

- F 188 Establish equal share program for geoduck fishery.
- F 189 Change start date of geoduck season to July 1.
- F 190 Establish trip limits for geoduck fishery.
- F 191 Divide management area in Southeast into two areas for geoduck fishery.
- C 192 Allow sub-regional area registration for geoduck fishery in Registration Area A.
- C/A 193 Correct latitude reference for closed area in Kliuchevoi Bay in District 13. *(Amended to correct error in regulation.)*

Sea Cucumbers

- C 194 Allow use of tenders in sea cucumber fishery.
- F 195 Move boundary for commercial sea cucumber fishery to the north end of St. Philip Island.
- C 196 Reopen Clover Pass area near Ketchikan to commercial sea cucumber fishing.

Red Sea Urchins

- F 197 Delete onboard observer requirement for red sea urchin fishery. *(Also see reference to board finding under Other Actions.)*

Octopus

- C/A 198 Develop an octopus management plan with octopus as a bycatch only species. *(Amended to provide an octopus management plan for Southeast Alaska.)*

Supplemental Proposals

- F 368 Establish possession limits for nonresidents at one daily bag limit. *(Only the shellfish portion of this proposal failed. The finfish portion of this proposal is scheduled for the February 2009 meeting in Sitka)*

Other actions

- C 318 Move Prince of Wales area shrimp regulations to correct subsection. *(This housekeeping proposal was previously listed for February 2009 finfish meeting. The board addressed it at the January shellfish meeting.)*

The board adopted regulatory findings regarding onboard observers in the red sea urchin fishery.

The board accepted a petition from the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and scheduled the petition for possible regulatory action during the March 16-20, 2009 meeting.