Dungeness Crab, Octopus, Weathervane Scallop, and Shrimp Fisheries in the Westward Region -Continued-

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and
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Oral Report: RC 3; Tab 3
Written Report: RC 3; Tab 7
Staff Comments: RC 2; Tab 1
SCALLOP PROPOSALS

- **PROPOSAL 350** – Allow weathervane scallop vessels to register for multiple registration areas (OPPOSE).

- **PROPOSAL 352** – Open waters currently closed to commercial scallop fishing near Mitrofania Island (OPPOSE).

- **PROPOSAL 353** – Open waters currently closed to commercial scallop fishing south of Unimak Island (NEUTRAL).

- **PROPOSAL 354** – Clarify scallop boundary line descriptions (SUPPORT).
Alaska Scallop Fishery

- State and federal management
- Limited to 9 vessels (LE / LLP)
- 9 scallop management areas
- Area specific GHLs
- 100% observer coverage (Except Cook Inlet)
- Crab bycatch limits
- Closed waters
Proposal 350 – Scallop Vessel Registration

Current Regulations
• Single area registration
• 100% observer coverage

If Adopted
• Decrease operating expenses for some vessels
• Limit observer debriefing opportunities
• May impact data quality
Scallop Observer Program

- Independent Contractors
- ADF&G Trained
  - Trainee
  - Certified
- Information Collected
  - Retained/discarded scallop catch
  - Processed meat weight
  - Crab bycatch numbers
  - Bycatch species composition
  - Location/time/length/depth fished
- Deployment Briefings
  - Pre/mid/post trip debriefing
- Inseason and Post Season Use
  - Harvest and bycatch monitoring
  - GHL determination
    - Limited survey data
Proposals 352 and 353 – Scallop Closed Waters

352: Mitrofania Island

353: Unimak Island

Waters described in 5 AAC 38.425 (6)
- Closed
- Proposal 352 waters
- Proposal 353 waters
Proposals 352 and 353 - Background

- Alaska Peninsula GHR = Capped at 100,000 lb
- Fishing season July 1 - February 15

Since 2000 limited scallop fishing effort and high crab bycatch

Fishery closed 2009/10 due to poor scallop catch and high bycatch
Proposal 352 – Scallop Closed Waters

Area closed in 1984 to protect declining king and Tanner crab stocks

If Adopted

• May provide additional scallop fishing opportunity
• No scallop stock data
• High Tanner crab bycatch
  40 percent of all Tanner crab harvested during 2011 and 2012 Tanner seasons occurred in proposed area
Proposal 353 – Scallop Closed Waters

Area closed in 1975 to protect declining king and Tanner crab stocks

If Adopted
- May provide additional scallop fishing opportunity
- No scallop stock data
- Limited king and Tanner crab stock data
Proposal 354 – Scallop Closed Waters

Update historical scallop boundary coordinates
SHRIMP PROPOSALS

• **PROPOSAL 356** – Align shrimp pot fishery season dates with harvest caps (SUPPORT).

• **PROPOSAL 357** – Clarify shrimp boundary line descriptions (SUPPORT).
Proposal 356 – Shrimp Season Dates

Align shrimp harvest caps with fishery season dates in the North Afognak, West Afognak, and Mainland Sections of the Kodiak District

- Pot fishery
- Fishing season: May 1 – February 28
- GHR = Capped at 40,000 lb
- No more than 15,000 lb taken from a section per calendar year
- Prevent excessive harvest

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Proposal 357 – Shrimp Boundary Lines
Update historical shrimp boundary coordinates

- Trawl fishery
- Many boundary lines established in 1960s and 1970s
- Low shrimp abundance
- South Peninsula - Closed (1980)
- Chignik - No effort (1982)
- Kodiak - < 24,000 lb (1985-2011)