

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Repeal specific commercial Dungeness crab fishery closed waters in areas around Tenakee Inlet, Sitka Sound, and Port Althrop, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 32.150(2)"....facility at 135 18.18' W longitude **and north of the latitude of Corner Bay Point.**"

delete 32.150(3)

delete 32.150(10)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Large areas of Area A are closed to commercial Dungeness fishing. In many if not all cases these areas are excessive.

Port Althrop is closed despite 2010 census data showing a population of 14, including only two below the age of 18. This closure primarily benefits nonresident clients of sport lodges and should be repealed.

Likewise, 2010 data shows 114 residents of Tenakee, including ten under 18 years. The currently closed area is far in excess of the needs of those residents and removes productive grounds from the fishery thus costing the state revenues and jobs.

The Sitka Sound closure was opposed by the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The committee's representative at the board meeting acted on his own initiative to bring about a result contrary to the wishes of the committee which had sought to harmonize the 13B season with the rest of District13 and, failing that, maintenance of the status quo ante (a season from October1 through February 28).

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-121)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Hetta Inlet, as follows:

5 AAC 32.110 Commercial Dungeness Crab

Commercial harvest of Dungeness crab is closed in the waters beginning at the head of Natzuhini Bay extending to the head waters of Sulzer Inlet, including all the waters of Sukwaan Strait and Hetta Inlet. The line of the closure would extend from round point on Blanket Island to Copper City on the Lime Point Shore, including all waters north and east of the line.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The community of Hydaburg would like to close the waters adjacent to the community to the commercial harvest of Dungeness crab, starting at the head waters of Natzuhini Bay and ending at the head of Sulzer Inlet, including all the waters of Sukwaan Straits and Hetta Inlet. The line of closure would extend from Round Point to Copper City, and all waters north and east of that line.

Dungeness crab is an important personal and subsistence resource to the community. There are currently no regulations that protect the sensitive stocks that are in our immediate harvest areas.

The area needs to be closed to the commercial harvest due to many factors.

First, other areas of Southeast have had drastic declines in the overall abundance of the resource, increasing pressure on areas that usually aren't traditionally harvested commercially.

Second, sea otter predation is now a known factor in the decline of all marine species in Southeast Alaska. We have an expanding population that is threatening our local abundance of Dungeness crab.

Third, the community needs an area we can depend on to meet our local needs, without the threat of overharvest or competition with commercial interest.

PROPOSED BY: Anthony Christianson Hydaburg LAC Chairman (EF-C14-060)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Whale Pass, as follows:

Closing the Whale Pass estuary to commercial Dungeness crab fishing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Area A, the following waters of Whale Pass from the Fish and Game markers at the north entrance to Whale Pass to a line drawn from 56° 05'03 N. 133° 04'07.5 W. on the northwestern end of Thorne Island due west to 56° 05'03 N. 133° 07'01 W. an unnamed point on Prince of Wales Island shall be closed to the taking of Dungeness crab.

PROPOSED BY: Whale Pass Community Association (HQ-F14-063)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Frederick Sound, as follows:

5AAC 32.150 CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION A. In Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness Crab

(17) That portion of Frederick sound west of a line from Point Frederick to Prolewy Point, and that portion of Wrangell Narrows north of the latitude of Danger Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intensity of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the vicinity of Petersburg severely reduces the availability of Dungeness crabs for personal use users. The intense summer commercial fishery has also resulted in a stock comprised of primarily "recruit" crabs. The few crabs that are available are generally at or just above the minimum legal size. Relatively small numbers of crabs are being held over from season to season allowing them to grow in width and weight. A small area around Petersburg, which is closed to commercial fishing, should provide personal use

opportunities that are currently not available or are severely restricted by the effect of the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell (EF-C14-071)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in a portion of Frederick Sound, as follows:

5AAC 32.150 CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION A. In Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness Crab

(17) That portion of Frederick Sound west of a line from Point Frederick to point northeast of the Sukoi Islands at 56° 54.467' N. latitude and 132° 54.324' W. longitude and along 56° 54.467' N. latitude to a point on Kupreanof Island, and that portion of Wrangell Narrows north of the latitude of Danger Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intensity of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the vicinity of Petersburg severely reduces the availability of Dungeness crabs for personal use users. The intense summer commercial fishery has also resulted in a stock comprised of primarily "recruit" crabs. The few crabs that are available are generally at or just above the minimum legal size. Relatively small numbers of crabs are being held over from season to season allowing them to grow in width and weight. A small area around Petersburg, which is closed to commercial fishing, should provide personal use opportunities that are currently not available or are severely restricted by the effect of the commercial fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell (EF-C14-072)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Big Bear/Baby Bear Marine Park near Sitka, as follows:

Disallow commercial crabbing in all or most of the Big Bear/Baby Bear Marine Park bays anchorage. The small Southeast Baby Bear and North Baby Bear would be our first and second priority, but, restricting crabbing to only parts of the marine park may add confusion to the regulations. Perhaps the best solution is to ban commercial crabbing in the entire Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park, as has been done in Thorne Bay and Tenakee Springs where commercial crabbing is not allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Addressing commercial crabbing in Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (25 miles north of Sitka). This is a popular, protected anchorage for boats waiting to go through Sergius Narrows and commercial crabbing with so many crab buoys, makes it difficult to anchor and to get sport crab. Commercial fishing inhibits the purpose of state marine parks. All boats will continue to have difficulty anchoring in this marine park and risk getting their prop or anchor caught in crab pot

lines. In the South Baby Bear Bay, we had to move a broken and discarded commercial trap to the beach that we got our anchor caught in (Chart #17323: 57° 25.8' N. 135° 33 25' W.).

PROPOSED BY: Larry Edgerton & Charlene Foley (HQ-F14-007)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close nearshore waters around Angoon to commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

Commercial Dungeness crab fishery will not be allowed to fish or lay commercial pots from Danger Point/Kootznahoo Head into Mitchell Bay, Favorite Bay, Kanalku Bay and its immediate environs.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial Dungeness crab in Angoon Alaska, Dungeness crab is being depleted by a commercial permit in the Angoon Area. We need to compete with multiple pots in a small area and therefore our sport and personal needs are not being met for our small community. This is a small area and the community is not being allowed to access to harvest with their sport gear because of all the commercial pots that prohibit the local residents from harvesting crab for personal use.

PROPOSED BY: City of Angoon (HQ-F14-034)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness fishing in areas around Colt and Horse Islands near Juneau, as follows:

Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing: waters north of a line from the southernmost tip of Horse Island extending west to Admiralty Island and to a line from Admiralty Island east to the northernmost tip of Colt Island.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close to commercial crabbing the area from the south end of Horse Island and extending to the north end of Colt Island, encompassing the area west to Admiralty Island. Commercial crabbers have for many years harvested Dungeness crab in the Bear Creek area northwest of Colt Island. In 2012 commercial crabbers set pots along the Admiralty shoreline for nearly 1 mile west of Colt and Horse Island. 2012 was the first year that a commercial crabber set pots in this area, from our recollection of cabin use since 1986. Colt Island was offered for sale in the 1970's and Horse Island in 1986, which comprise nearly 120 lots on the two islands, many with cabins. For those who enjoy setting a Dungeness pot for personal use there should be a reasonable chance an individual could be rewarded with crabs. This expectation is severely diminished when competing against commercial crabbers.

PROPOSED BY: Ron and Nan Schonenbach (EF-C14-021)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness fishing around Portland Island and Point Lena near Juneau, as follows:

Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing: waters from the southernmost tip of Point Louisa, extending 500 feet seaward of Mean High Water, to Point Lena.

Alternative description— Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing: waters east of a line extending from the northernmost tip of Portland Island to Point Lena.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close to commercial Dungeness crabbing the area between Point Louisa and Point Lena, an area extending 500 feet seaward from Mean High Water. The area from Point Louisa and Portland Island south through Gastineau Channel was closed to commercial Dungeness crabbing in 1980 and the area from Point Lena north to Tee Harbor was closed in 2000. The requested closure area was commercially crabbed in 2012, the first time that some long term residents ever recall seeing a commercial crabber work the shoreline. There are nearly 90 waterfront homes along this 2.5 mile shoreline. For those who enjoy setting a Dungeness pot for personal use, there should be a reasonable chance an individual could be rewarded with crabs. The expectation is severely diminished when competing against commercial crabbers.

PROPOSED BY: Ron and Nan Schonenbach (EF-C14-022)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close waters to Game Creek and Gartina Creek near Hoonah to commercial Dungeness crab fishing to improve subsistence fishery, as follows:

Hoonah Indian Association proposes that both the entrance to Game Creek and Gartina Creek be closed to commercial Dungeness crab pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would close off the waters within a mile radius of the entrance to Game Creek and Gartina Creek to commercial Dungeness crab fishing, within the waters of Port Frederick Bay. These waters are particularly important to the residents of Hoonah for their traditional subsistence Dungeness crab harvest. Obtaining any amount of subsistence Dungeness crab within the Port Frederick waters has become increasingly more difficult for Hoonah residents in recent years. This is due to an increase in the number of commercial crab pots present in subsistence Dungeness fishing areas.

Currently it is very difficult to navigate through these small coves during harvest months because of the large amount of commercial crab pots. Hoonah residents own very small skiffs and fuel is expensive. Closing off these subsistence Dungeness crabbing areas within Port Frederick Bay would make it easier for Hoonah residents to harvest their subsistence Dungeness crab.

PROPOSED BY: Hoonah Indian Association (EF-C14-181)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close portions of Chilkat Inlet to commercial Dungeness crab fishing until harvest levels rebound, as follows:

Proposed Language:

(16) waters of District 15-34 Chilkat Inlet that are above the southern tip of Kochu Island to the mouth of the Chilkat River, and waters of Lynn Canal within Districts 115-34 and 115-33 above the latitude of Mud Bay (Flat Bay) Point to the mouth of the Chilkoot River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Declining Dungeness crab commercial catch per unit effort (CPUE) for District 115, extremely low catch rates reported by subsistence, sport and personal use fishers. I requested that the board close a portion of District 115 to commercial harvest until sustainable harvest population levels can be established by independent survey.

Rational: There is no regulatory pathway that is apparent which would decrease commercial fishing effort in the Haines area other than to request a closure. Historic commercial pot lift levels of approximately 2,000 lifts per year in District 115 saw a steep increase in 2007 which peaked in 2012-2013 at just over 18,000 lifts in that season. The 14,210 lifts of the 2013–2014 season appears to have brought the local crab population to the brink of collapse. Graphs of CPUE vs pot lifts for District 115-31-35 mirror those of Yakutat during 1993–1999 collapse of that fishery. Current CPUE values for District 115 are at levels similar to those from which Yakutat stocks were unable to recover in 1996–1999. If Yakutat’s data can be accepted as indicative of demonstrating how a fishery collapses, then it follows that District 115 is about to collapse. The only avenue to prevent that from occurring is to close this area to further commercial harvest. This area would be reopened to commercial harvest upon completion and implementation of a management plan that would insure a harvest level appropriate for the sustainable biomass of District 115.

PROPOSED BY: John Norton

(HQ-F14-040)
