

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT CRAB, SHRIMP, AND MISC. SHELLFISH  
JANUARY 21-27, 2015

**PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

My solution is to scrap 5 AAC 32.146 as a regulation, as it is not a necessity in a Dungeness management regime. I believe the language would be "repealed."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 32.146, the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan, has not been accurate in predicting yearly harvests, and as a management tool, has only been implemented once, resulting in one week's reduction in the summer season in 2013.

Prior to this regulation, the season was as it is now, with no management considerations outside the "three S's", size, sex, and season.

California, Oregon, and Washington currently manage their Dungeness fishery with the three S's. They have a much longer seasons (up to nine months), a smaller minimum size limit (6.25" compared to our 6.5"), and a much higher limit on the legal amount of gear. These fisheries have been in existence for decades under this management and are healthy and vibrant.

In Southeast here, the areas that have the most effort, the most pot lifts, and the most pots, are year in and year out our biggest producers, showing that the three S's works, since it has been in effect in essence, since the season reduction has only been implemented once in the many years it has been on the books.

**PROPOSED BY:** Max Worhatch IV (EF-C14-170)  
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**PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

Delete 5 ACC 32.146

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Dungeness Management Plan causes unnecessary uncertainty for participants in the fishery and does not contribute to the health and sustainability of the resource. The plan can cause irreparable harm to those who depend on this fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Roddy (EF-C14-117)  
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**PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

Remove all reference to threshold harvest limits from the Southeast Alaska Dungeness Crab Management Plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is the use of threshold harvest guidelines to modify season length. The current plan assumes a level of participation to be consistent and makes no allowances for a poor turnout. The current plan deals with pressure during the first two weeks of the season to determine how long to allow the much slower pace of the last six weeks to continue. Fishing pressure always decreases as the season progresses, but especially after the first two weeks. In other words, the current plan closes the season after the "damage" would have been done. The current plan is to be conservative. Our currently short seasons are conservative enough, along with a large size limit, and sex restriction, (male only). Threshold harvest levels are redundant and unnecessary. For fishermen, not knowing the length of season effects planning for moving gear and prospecting more outlying areas, doubt about season length contributes to concentration of the fleet. A shortened season is worth less in dollars across the dock and is not the least of the problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stephen N. Farler (EF-C14-310)

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**PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Manage commercial Dungeness crab fishery with open season dates and areas to avoid handling of soft shell crab, as follows:

Suggested language for 32.110 (4) "Closure due to soft-shell condition"

"The department shall establish an inseason management plan for Dungeness crab stocks in Registration Area A on a division basis which will set season opening dates and areas to be fished based on percentage of male crab found by survey to be in soft-shell state during the spring/summer molt cycle and the percentage of female crab found by survey to be in soft-shell state during a period one week prior to the June 15 summer and October 1 fall opening dates to establish the level of soft-shell prevalence in the population of each district. The season/area shall remain closed by emergency order when the above ratio exceeds 20% of the ratio found in nonmolting periods."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Season opening dates both in summer and fall season are not managed to avoid female and sublegal male in soft-shell condition.

Explanation: Mortality due to handling during commercial harvest of sublegal males and females during molting (soft-shell life stage) has been reported to approach 50% in Dungeness

crab. Since this molt period may vary from one year to another as well as differing from Southern Southeast Alaska to Northern Southeast Alaska, the management plan must have flexibility to set season dates to avoid this unnecessary mortality. Current practices in the Dungeness fisheries of California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia monitor populations for soft-shell condition and prohibit commercial harvest activity during those periods. Failure to recognize this mortality effect on a population can contribute to catastrophic declines and failure of fisheries. The current 3S Management Plan has been reported to widely harvest from 85%–93% of available recruits in Southeast Alaska, Registration Area A making this additional mortality a significant impact on the remaining 7–15% of available year class recruits.

This mortality rate and concerns regarding negative impacts in Dungeness crab fisheries have been discussed in Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports and documents, and scientific papers (see Krause et al 1991 among others) with numerous recommendations that this failure in management practices must be corrected.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Norton (HQ-F14-039)

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**PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Modify Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan with open seasons, areas, and harvest levels based on historic data, as follows:

Proposed action: Remove current language establishing projected harvest total and season dates for Registration Area A based on a 14-day harvest period which begins on June 15 each year. Strike from regulation all sections 5 AAC 32.146

Proposed language: “The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) shall establish an inseason management plan establishing opening dates, areas open to harvest, and specific harvest levels for each district in Southeast Alaska Registration Area A. Annual harvest amount levels will be established by the department for each individual district and section based on historic records of catch per unit effort (CPUE), crab harvested, number of pot lifts, population and harvest trends from the preceding 10-year period (where data is available), molt timing, population size and composition (age and sex ratios) needed to sustain that stock, and other effects that may influence mortality or health of the population. Age and sex ratios refers specifically to maintaining appropriate year class strength and sex ratios for reproductive success, as male size (age class) affects availability to females. A harvest area will be closed by emergency order when the established harvest level has been met. Dates of openings will be set to insure that commercial harvest will not occur in an area during periods of molting/soft-shell condition.”

An independent stock assessment program shall be initiated in the 2015–2016 harvest year that over a five year period it will become the basis by which seasons openings and harvest limits within Registration Area A will be determined. At least one major Dungeness crab habitat area within each district as well as other appropriate areas within specific sections with a significant

history of Dungeness crab harvest levels will be sampled annually. Population levels in these high value habitat areas shall be used as guides to set harvest rates and openings for the districts and its sections as a whole for that year. An example would be that population levels on the Katzehin River Delta, a high value Dungeness habitat area in District 115 Section 34 (115-34), could be used to set harvest levels throughout District 115-34 and would be used to help set harvest goals for all of District 115 and its remaining sections. Those sections of a district that do not have substantial harvest levels would not be sampled, but would be managed in accordance with goals determined through indicator sites in proximity. In the above example, District 115-35 would not be sampled as it has not had any significant harvest in the past decade. Its harvest level would be determined by goals set for the adjoining section, which in this example would be District 115-34.

As one researcher put it, the importance of minimum population size on a given stock cannot be underestimated. When they pass below a minimum threshold they collapse and may not reestablish themselves for extremely long periods of time, if at all.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Overharvest of Dungeness crab in excess of sustainable levels in Registration Area A, Southeast Alaska.

There are numerous metrics that indicate that the Dungeness crab stocks of Southeast Alaska are declining, and in some cases area specific stocks may be below sustainable levels. Since the peak harvest level of 7,332,665 pounds in 2002–2003 the last three years harvests have hovered 2,550,000 pounds. This is a stunning metric. If one excludes the extraordinary 2002–2003 harvest and instead looks at the 5 subsequent years where annual harvests hovered around 4,500,000 pounds, there is still a stunning decline of 50% from those levels during each of the past three seasons. The data argue forcefully that the current management system is failing to meet its statutory responsibility to manage this resource at optimum levels. Anecdotal evidence support this conclusion, including CPUE estimates from subsistence, sport, and personal use fishers, as well as the avalanche of complaints from communities throughout Southeast Alaska regarding the disappearance of local crab stocks. There are a number of possible causes for this observed decline including overfishing, oceanic and climate effects and increased sea otter predation. While I acknowledge that sea otter predation has a significant effect, sea otters are not present in Upper Lynn Canal and cannot be responsible for the decline seen in this area. Oceanic and climate effects can certainly affect population levels; however the dramatic increase in commercial fishing effort in the Haines area precludes them from being seriously considered as primary causative agents for the decline currently being witnessed for local Dungeness crab populations.

Regardless of the cause of the decline it is incumbent for the department to insure adequate populations for sustainable harvests for all user classes. Region-wide regulations are inadequate to insure specific stock populations meet minimum population levels to insure propagation. Research has established that Dungeness crab move very little, so if you fish out an area there is little possibility for immigrants to repopulate that area. A serial depletion model has been proposed for Dungeness populations in Southeast Alaska which describes declines in harvest levels in a given season ten years ago ballooned to 18,000 pot lifts per season in 2011–2012.

Local CPUE's for District 115 now sit where Yakutat's did in the late 1990's when its fishery collapsed. Interestingly and unfortunately Yakutat has remained closed to commercial harvest for the past 14 years and shows no signs of recovery.

While annual total harvest levels for Registration Area A of 2,600,000 pounds or less have occurred three times during the 20-year period of 1990–1991 to 2010–2011, the fact that the harvest for each of the least three seasons has been below 2,600,000 pounds or less shouts at us that a change in management strategy is required. The department must change its plan to one which reflects fishery effort, i.e. how many pot lifts occur, how many crabs were removed from population, and the baseline population levels needed for specific stocks in order to perpetuate that stock. Depletion of individual stocks below sustainable population levels has a long lasting effect. To correct the failure of the current management plan to protect local stocks from overharvest I have suggested an independent stock assessment program, that over a five year period will determine population levels in primary habitat areas in each district of Registration Area A that will help prevent overharvest from occurring. For a simplified view of how this would work, in one year the area between Haines and Amalga Harbor would have to be assessed, a distance of approximately 50 miles. There are discreet areas that are well known for their productivity and these would be the focus for assessing district population levels. I assume that local knowledge would be able to identify these high value areas in other districts such that in a five year period these areas would provide a metric by which to judge population strength and sustainable harvest levels area wide. While there is a fiscal cost to a survey project of this type it is worth noting that the value of the 2013–2014 season reported at \$6,435,971 and this argues that sustaining this fishery is very much an economic necessity for Southeast Alaska families. A research program with a fiscal note of \$250,000 would be an investment of 3.9% of gross value toward maintenance and improvement of the fishery. I am advocating that a more robust management program would promote higher sustainable harvest levels and therefore higher economic return to the communities of Southeast Alaska. That is exactly what existing policy statements and regulations require.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Norton (HQ-F14-041)  
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**PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Modify threshold levels for opening and closing of summer and fall fishing seasons under the Southeastern Alaska Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan, as follows:

In the absence of adequate stock assessment, the department shall manage the Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska) using a precautionary approach. When stocks are assessed to be low, the department shall, subject to the commissioner's authority under 5 AAC 32.035, reduce the harvest of legal Dungeness crab and reduce the handling of non-legal, light, and soft-shell Dungeness crab by complying with the following:

- (1) no later than 14 days after the start of the summer Dungeness crab fishing season specified in 5 AAC 32.110, the department shall establish a projection of harvest thresholds for the season;

(2) if the department projects that the entire season's catch of legal Dungeness crab will be;

(A) 1.5 million pounds or less, the department will close the summer Dungeness crab fishing season no sooner than 21 days after the season opened, and the fall Dungeness crab fishing season specified in 5 AAC 32.110 will not open;

(B) more than 1.5 million pounds, but less than 1.75 [2.25] million pounds, the department will close the summer Dungeness crab fishing season no sooner than 28 days after the season opened, and the fall Dungeness crab fishing season will be open for 30 days;

**(C) more than 1.75 million pounds, but less than 2.25 million pounds, the department will close the summer Dungeness crab fishing season no sooner than 53 days after the season opened, and the fall Dungeness crab season will be open for 53 days;**

**(D)** [(C)] more than 2.25 million pounds, the summer and fall Dungeness crab fishing seasons will occur as specified in 5 AAC 32.110;

(3) if the department determines that harvest projections fail to meet the threshold for a season as described in (2)[(C)] **(D)** of this section due to soft-shelled crabs early in the summer Dungeness crab fishing season, the department may open the fall Dungeness crab fishing season as specified in 5 AAC 32.110.

**(4) if the department determines that harvest projections fail to meet the threshold for a season as described in (2)(D) of this section, the department may consider other factors such as loss of grounds utilized and/or amount of participation and adjust the above schedule accordingly.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Dungeness crab season being closed under the SE AK Dungeness Crab management plan (5 AAC 32.146) due to less effort/participation due to consolidated grounds from sea otter predation. Sea otters are starting to be seen in some of the inside areas (Districts 6, 8, & 11) that are some of the most productive crab grounds this past winter. Although the 2013/14 Dungeness crab season was predicted to be below the 2.25 million pound threshold and the summer season was shortened by seven days, in the end the final harvest for the season was over 2.25 million pounds (2,589,572) even with the shortened season.

Since 1982 and present there are four seasons that the total harvest was under 2.25 million pounds but over 1.75 million pounds. This was prior to the implementation of the management plan when the fishery was managed with size, sex and season. Those normal fluctuations should be within the range of allowing a normal season length.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-C14-157)

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**PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Repeal section of Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan regarding summer season soft-shell crab catch that may allow fall season to open, as follows:

Paragraph (3) of 32.146. repealed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Delete paragraph (3) of 32.146 which allows for the harvest threshold to be met when determining fall season openings when the number of soft-shell crab present reduce the early summer harvest level.

Rational: This paragraph does not make sense from a resource viewpoint. Despite the high presence of soft-shell crab in the first two weeks of the June 2013 harvest season, there was no reduction in harvest for the remaining season. Unfortunately, the early weeks of the fishery killed sublegal males at mortality rates that have been reported as high as 50%. The reduction of sublegal males in the remaining population due to this collateral mortality will reduce year class strength for as many as four subsequent year's classes, decreasing contributions to a sustainable population level and reproduction effort in those years. Those lost recruits must be immediately replaced by current season recruits to maintain appropriate sustainable population levels in subsequent years. In effect, the mortality seen in 2013–2014 June harvest must be seen as a debt that must be immediately paid to sustain subsequent years of harvest. California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia all understand the effect of soft-shell mortality and manage season openings to avoid those periods. To view this mortality as a null effect is incorrect.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Norton (HQ-F14-038)  
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**PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.** Extend regionwide commercial Dungeness crab season closure date from November 30 to February 28, as follows:

delete 5 AAC 32.110(1) and (2)

Amend 32.110(3) to read "**From 8:00 am June 15 through 11:59 pm August 15 and from 8:00 am October 1 through 11:59 February 28.**"

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Dungeness crab season should be consistent across Southeast Alaska and should extend through February. There is no biological reason not to fish on Dungeness crab through that date. Crab prices are typically high

in January and February. Local and export markets would benefit. Some nonresident permit holders might be harmed by a reduction in summer yield.

All crab fisheries should open at 8:00 a.m.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Roddy (EF-C14-120)

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**PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.** Manage Upper Lynn Canal commercial Dungeness crab fishery based on CPUE, as follows:

5 AAC 32.035. Closure of Dungeness crab registration areas and special procedures  
(2): catch per unit of effort and rate of harvest

Should be changed to read:

(2): **catch per unit of effort (CPUE) and rate of harvest.**  
**(A) CPUE for all waters of District 115 shall be assessed during commercial openings utilizing the ADFG fish ticket data. A CPUE result of 2 or lower shall trigger a closure of Dungeness harvest by commercial, sport, and personal use fishers. The fishery will remain closed until a CPUE of 2.1 or above is attained.**

No cost options considered by Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (ULCAC) to assess CPUE following closures:

- Option 1: Close the fishery for 24 months following a CPUE of two or fewer crab per pot. After 24 months, the fishery would again open and be assessed based on the harvest CPUE. No additional cost to implement.
- Option 2: Following a closure due to a CPUE of two or fewer crab per pot, and prior to the next season, one or more commercial fishing vessels would test fish to assess CPUE. Costs would be covered by the sale of their harvested crab.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The ADF&G currently utilizes a 3S (3S- size, sex, season) management system on a region wide scale for sustaining harvest levels of Dungeness crab in Region A. However the ADF&G has been unable to provide the ULCAD with meaningful interpretation of available data as it relates to 5 AAC 32.035 for the portion of the Region A that lies within the ULCAC's jurisdiction. As a result the AC recommends utilizing existing data, a CPUE, currently collected by the ADF&G to establish a threshold to ensure sustainability for all users groups.

In a 2012 report to the Board of Fish, ADF&G states the "classical 3-S management usually is not effective to manage intensive, highly-competitive fisheries". Due to declines in crab in other areas of Region A (2012 ADF&G report to BOF) and the development of new local markets since 2006, the Upper Lynn Canal has seen an increase in commercial harvest, followed by a significant decrease in crab harvest rate, indicative of population decline. Since 2007, CPUE of

commercial crabs harvested in statistical areas 115-31-35 have decline from 7.8 in 2006/2007 to 2.8 in 2013, a statistically significant decline of 12.7% per year. Subsistence crabbers have reported to the local AC a significant decline in their catch rate as well. During this same time period (2006– 2013), the total number of commercial pot lifts, as recorded by the department from commercial harvest fish tickets, increased from 2,096 (2006) to 14,210 (2013) with a peak of 18,034 pot lifts in 2012. The ADF&G has reliable data on CPUE for commercial harvest in this area only back to the year 2000. From 2000–2007, CPUE increased at a rate of 12.3% per year, from 3.2 to 7.5, indicative of population increase. During this increase, commercial effort was low at 469–2,096 pot lifts per year. The coincident large increase in pressure and decline in the crab population suggests the current management plan is not adequate to sustain local crab populations. Given the observed 60% declines in CPUE since 2007, coupled with an approximate 600% increase in commercial effort, we believe this local area cannot support this rate of commercial, sport, and personal use harvest, as well as subsistence harvests. In a 2012 report to the BOF concerning Dungeness crab in Southeast Alaska, the ADF&G expressed concern that the current Region A harvest rate may be unsustainable, as “trends in recruit composition of the harvest indicate that the fishery is increasingly dependent on annual recruitment” such that a smaller portion of strong year classes are carried over to buffer the fishery against the effects of a poor year class”. A fishery dependent on annual recruitment suggests that, localized areas within the region, with limited markets and fisheries, could be in danger of overexploitation if pressure should dramatically increase as we have observed in our area. This suggests the current plan is failing to manage crab populations at the appropriate spatial scale to ensure viable populations and sustainable yield for multiple user groups near communities. We arbitrarily choose the management criteria of a minimum of two CPUE for harvest openings of legal size crab due to lack of guidance provided by the ADF&G and an assumed threshold of two crabs per pot being economically viable for the commercial fleet.

The regulation should be adopted in order to establish and maintain a sustainable Dungeness crab harvest for all users groups in the upper Lynn Canal and the waters of District 115. If the regulation is not changed and pressure remains high throughout the area, District 115 crab harvest rates could continue to decline leading to a full commercial closer and further reduced opportunity for subsistence use. We recommend the board take action now to reduce the rate of decline in CPUE as measured by the ADF&G and ensure a future harvest of Dungeness crab in Upper Lynn Canal. We believe the current management methods lack precautionary measures to prevent collapses of available harvest, as occurred in Yakutat and Prince William Sound. We considered many options including, partial closure to commercial only, limited by season, and area, with sunset clauses in hopes of ensuring a return of commercial harvest to the area if sustainable. We considered full closures to all user groups, limits on number of pots that could be fished, log books, and several other options; however our decisions continued to be limited by the lack of data available about Dungeness crab in our area. Therefore we recommend the department actively manage District15 for all users.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee (EF-C14-098)  
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**PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC XX.XXX.** This proposal is a comment and does not seek regulatory change.

No changes to current regulations are necessary. The Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee recommendations to limit commercial crab fishing do not reflect the view of the majority of residents in Haines.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee proposal to eliminate or limit commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the upper Lynn Canal. Current Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations have successfully managed this fishery for decades.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Szymanski (EF-C14-73)  
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**PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC XX.XXX.** This proposal is a comment and does not seek regulatory change.

No changes to current regulations are necessary. The Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee recommendations to limit commercial crab fishing do not reflect the view of the majority of residents in Haines.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee proposal to eliminate or limit commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the upper Lynn canal. Current fish and game regulations have successfully managed this fisheries for decades.

**PROPOSED BY:** Randa Szymanski (EF-C14-74)  
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**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)

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**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)

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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**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)  
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**PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 47.090. George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.** Modify pot limits, buoy marking requirements, responsible parties, and management provisions for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 47.035(c), no more than six pots per registered sport fishing operator, may be used and each pot may be lifted no more than three times per day. A pot lifted more than twice must be removed from the water on the third lifting and not returned to the water until the next calendar day. Pots may be set, but not pulled, by a separate designated support vessel that does not carry clients and is not otherwise used for fishing while designated as a support vessel. The department must be notified in writing of any support vessel designation before the support vessel is used to set pots. The vessel remains designated as a support vessel for the remainder of the calendar year unless the department is notified in writing that the designation is terminated.

(e) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 47.035

(f), the name and address of each sport fisherman using the gear is not required to be inscribed on a keg or buoy. However, a keg or buoy attached to a pot must be inscribed with the name of the registered sport fishing operator, the operator’s address, and the name(s) or the division of motor vehicles boat registration number(s), issued under 2 AAC 70, of the vessel(s) used to operate the pot. The sport fishing guide in command of the sport fishing operator’s vessel, and the person pulling or setting the pot, are responsible for any violations.

...

(i) The commissioner may close the fishery by emergency order, or close and immediately reopen the fishery with additional conditions by emergency order, if the commissioner determines that a closure or additional conditions are reasonably necessary for the protection of

the resource. The commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery if the personal use Dungeness crab fishery in the area is closed. The commissioner may reduce the number of allowable pots or the number of allowable lifts, or both, if more than one sport fishing operator registers for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery was implemented at the request of Experience Alaska Tours (EAT). EAT was interested in developing an eco-tour in George Inlet that allowed guests to pull crab pots, view live crab, return their catch to the ocean, and return to George Inlet Lodge for a Dungeness crab meal. The tour has been highly successful and demand continues to increase.

Originally EAT operated three boats. Under regulation, each boat was allowed to operate two pots and each pot was allowed to be pulled up to three times per day. In 2011 EAT replaced two of its smaller tour boats with a larger boat. Standard protocol during a tour has been to pull two pots per tour. This allows guests two opportunities to experience the excitement as the pot comes out of the water, as well as diminishes the chance the trip will get skunked. The area is very productive and on the rare occasion when one pot has not fished well, the second pot usually always does. As demand for the tour has increased, EAT is faced with the possibility of reducing the quality of the tour by only pulling one pot per trip in order to accommodate additional trips.

Changes to these regulations would also allow EAT (or any other registered business to this fishery) the flexibility to operate tours in a manner that accommodates its guests and meets the interests of the business. For instance, under current regulations a smaller group may be forced to be accommodated on EAT's smaller passenger vessel, because that vessel is the only one that has pots that can still be pulled that day. However, given the choice, the company may prefer to use the larger and more comfortable vessel as a way to enhance the tour for guests. Current regulations would prohibit such accommodation.

The original regulations anticipated three boats, 2 pots each, with a maximum of three pot pulls per day. For EAT's original boat fleet, this equated to 6 total pots and 18 total pot pulls per day. This proposed regulation would eliminate the need for each pot to be assigned to a specific vessel but would still limit the registered sport fish operator (EAT, in this case) to a total of 6 pots and 18 total pot pulls per day. The changes simply give the business more flexibility with their smaller boat fleet to meet the demands of the customer and the needs of the business.

Since its inception no other company, other than EAT, has registered for this superexclusive fishery. Proposed changes to 5 AAC 47.090(i) would give the Commissioner the ability to restrict the number of pots or pulls if more than one sport fishing operator registers for the fishery.

This tour has been in operation since 2003 and is a shining example of how an eco-tour can successfully meet the demands of conservation as well as support industry. The crab stocks in

George Inlet continue to be very healthy and our log books show strong catches over the history of this fishery. The tour employs close to 30 seasonal employees, as well as five full-time year-round positions. In 2013 the tour purchased 50,000 pounds of Petersburg-processed Dungeness crab to serve to tour guests, supporting the seasonal tourist economy in Ketchikan as well as the Southeast commercial crab fishing industry as well.

**PROPOSED BY:** Experience Alaska Tours (EF-C14-012)

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**PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 47.090.** **George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.** Modify sport fishing guide requirements in the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

(b) During the calendar year of registration, a sport fishing operator[, SPORT FISHING GUIDE,] or vessel registered for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery may not participate in any other Dungeness crab fishery, or any other guided sport fishery as a vessel or operator. **A sport fishing guide registered for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery may not participate in any other Dungeness crab fishery, or any other guided sport fishery as a guide while registered for the superexclusive fishery. A sport fishing guide may rescind their registration for the superexclusive fishery by submitting a request in writing to the Commissioner.**

...

(j) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, during the 2008 calendar year, before April 1, a sport fishing operator, sport fishing guide, or vessel owner may register for the George Inlet superexclusive ecotourism guided sport ecotourism fishery. After registering for the fishery, a sport fishing operator [,SPORT FISHING GUIDE,] or vessel owner may not fish for Dungeness crab in any other area or participate in other guided sport fishery as a vessel or operator. **A sport fishing guide may not fish for Dungeness crab in any other area or participate in any other guided sport fishery as a guide while registered for the superexclusive fishery.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This restriction places an unnecessary burden on both the employer and the employee. The employer may feel compelled to reduce an employee's hours or lay them off due to slow tour sales but be less inclined to do so given the fact that the employee's job opportunities have been diminished as a result of registering for the superexclusive fishery. The employee may wish to seek employment with another company or branch out on their own, but may be prohibited from doing so because they are ineligible to participate in another sport fishery as a guide. Additionally, the seasonal nature of this fishery requires employees to seek out other "off-season" employment to support themselves. It is not uncommon for sport fishing guides to seek employment in the commercial fishery during the winter. This includes crabbing, shrimping, and long lining for bottom fish. There are not similar provisions in place for other sport fish guides (i.e. a charter guide that

fishes for halibut is not prohibited from fishing on a long line boat, a charter guide that facilitate his guests setting crab pots is not prohibited from commercially crab fishing).

**PROPOSED BY:** Experience Alaska Tours (EF-C14-013)  
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**PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.** Increase the pot limit from 4 pots per boat to 10 pots per vessel for personal use Tanner crab fishery in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

No more than four pots per person and no more than 10 pots per boat may be used to capture Tanner crab.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Four pots per boat is too restrictive.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Roddy (EF-C14-123)  
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**PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.** Repeal closure of Tanner crab sport and personal use fishery two weeks prior to July 1 in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

"Fishing for shellfish is open the entire year except:  
King crab: (residents only): check for emergency order....."  
Delete references to Tanner crab.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The two-week closure serves no good purpose. It was intended to provide a fair start for the personal use king crab fishery on July 1. The king crab fishery opens by emergency order and not until after stock assessment surveys are complete; this is typically sometime in August: thus the Tanner closure achieves nothing but to criminalize otherwise innocent behavior.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Roddy (EF-C14-124)  
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**PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 34.170. Fishing seasons for Registration Area D.** Establish golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area D under commissioner’s permit, as follows:

**PERMITS FOR GOLDEN KING CRAB IN AREA D. (a) Male golden king crab may be taken in Registration Area D only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.**

**(b) No more than 100 pots may be operated from a vessel**

**(c) The permit required in (a) of this section**

- (1) may specify season dates;
- (2) may specify areas of fishing operations by district, subdistrict, or registration subareas;
- (3) may establish minimum legal size limits;
- (4) may require an onboard observer during all operations;
- (5) may specify the type, size, and configuration of pots; pots must include an escape mechanism designed to allow female and undersized male crab to exit the pot during fishing operations;
- (6) may require mandatory completion of logbooks provided by the department and require that the logbooks be attached to the fish ticket at the time of landing; and
- (7) may set other conditions deemed necessary by the commissioner for conservation and management purposes.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 34.170 B states that "male golden king crab may be taken only during periods established by emergency order." I have spoken with the department and they would prefer to open the Yakutat golden king crab fishery by commissioner's permit and recommended I put in a proposal to that effect.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-C14-061)  
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**PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 34.1XX. Logbooks and 5 AAC 34.1XX. Reporting requirements for king crab in Registration Area D.** Establish logbook requirement and standards for commercial king crab fisheries in Registration Area D, as follows:

**5 AAC 34.1XX. Logbooks. (a) In Registration Area D, during a king crab season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish in the commercial king crab fishery shall complete logbooks provided by the department.**

**(b) Logbooks described in (a) of this section shall be**

**(1) updated daily;**

**(2) sealed in envelopes provided by the department to maintain confidentiality; and**

**(3) submitted to the primary processor or buyer for attachment to the fish ticket; the processor or buyer shall forward fish tickets with the attached, sealed envelopes containing logbooks to the department in accordance with 5 AAC 39.130.**

**(c) A catcher/seller described in 5 AAC 39.130 shall attach logbooks described in this section to the department copy of fish tickets.**

**(d) A person may not make a false entry in the logbook required in (a) of this section.**

**5 AAC 34.1XX. Reporting requirements for king crab in Registration Area D. In addition to the reporting requirements in 5 AAC 39.130 and 5 AAC 34.075, the commissioner may require an owner or operator of a vessel validly registered to fish in the commercial king crab fishery in Registration Area D to report to a local representative of the department the following catch information:**

**(1) the number of legal king crab on board the vessel and the number of pot lifts conducted during the fishing period in any fishing area, district, or portion of a district; and**  
**(2) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the resource; the board directs the commissioner to consult with the fishing industry in developing reporting requirements under this paragraph.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations in Registration Area A require logbooks and allow for reporting requirements in Tanner crab and king crab fisheries. Logbooks and reporting requirements have proved to be beneficial in inseason management and post season fishery performance analyses in both fisheries. While no documented effort has occurred in the red and blue king crab fishery in Registration Area D since the 2000/2001 season when three permits recorded landings, there has been some recent interest in the fishery. In the 2013/2014 season a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 5,000 pounds of red and blue king crab in combination was targeted. Mandatory logbooks and reporting requirements would enable the department to more easily target similar GHLs in the future, and would improve the quality of the harvest data.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-095)  
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**PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 34.185. Lawful gear for Registration Area D.** Modify lawful gear to allow use of square king crab pots in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 34.185. LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA D.  
**(c) repealed 1/24/15;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 34.185. LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA D.

(c) King crab may not be taken with pots that have tunnel eye openings located on the vertical plane of the pot.

I would like 34. 185 (c) repealed. The language of this regulation prohibits "square" pots from being used for king crab in registration Area D. I own a string of "square" pots that I use for the registration Area A king crab fishery and would like to use those same pots in registration Area D, rather than buy a new string of gear specifically for registration Area D.

No other registration area in the state has a regulation containing wordage that prohibits the use of "square" pots. In my opinion it is an arbitrary and unnecessary regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jared Bright (EF-C14-063)  
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**PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 34.185. Lawful gear for Registration Area D.** Reduce the commercial king crab pot limit in the waters of Yakutat Bay and Russell Fjord from 100 pots per vessel to 40 pots per vessel, as follows:

(b) During an open commercial king crab season in those waters north and east of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape,

(1) no more than **40** [100] king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations allow for a 100 pot limit for king crab in waters of Yakutat Bay and Russell Fjord, where virtually all of the historical red and blue king crab harvest in Registration Area D has occurred. No documented effort has occurred in the red and blue king crab fishery in Registration Area D since the 2000/2001 season when three permits recorded landings. In the 2013/2014 season a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 5,000 pounds of red and blue king crab in combination was targeted. A pot reduction would enable the department to more easily target similar GHLs in the future.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-096)  
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**PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.** Allow the operation of commercial pot gear for groundfish before and during a commercial king or Tanner crab season, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 34.128 to read "...other than commercial shrimp pot, ground fish pots or Dungeness crab pots during the fourteen days ...."

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations forbid operation of otherwise legal finfish pots prior to the commercial Tanner and king crab fisheries. The Pacific cod season is typically open at this time and pots are legal gear for the taking of cod. Cod is important bait in the Tanner fishery. Operation of cod pot gear is legal before and during the Tanner fishery in other regions of Alaska (see 5 AAC 35.428).

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Roddy (EF-C14-118)  
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**PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 34.115. Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.** Create new commercial golden king crab fishery area in Cross Sound, as follows:

Add 5 AAC 34.107(h) Cross Sound Area: all waters of Area A west of District 14 and north of the latitude of Imperial Pass.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Brown crab are found outside existing fishing areas. A new area west of the Icy Straits area would allow opportunity to harvest those crab and learn more about their abundance and distribution.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Roddy (EF-C14-122)

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**PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 35.180. Lawful gear for Registration Area D.** Reduce commercial Tanner crab pot limit in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 35.171 paragraph (b), (1) no more than **40** [100] pots may be operated from a vessel;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like to have a study done to determine if there exists enough resource to have a limited commercial Tanner crab fishery. We would like to reduce the number of allowable pots to a more conservative number in an effort to utilize the resource without harming it.

We do not feel this reduction will harm anyone as the season has been closed by emergency order for some time. The reduction should be considered temporary, and we would ask that the pot limit be brought back to its historical limit should a complete recovery of stocks occur. We considered what the reduction level should be. It was decided that 40 pots wasn't too many, and yet might allow a small fishery to take place. It is an open number subject to approval of the Department.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-087)

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**PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A.** Correct a district reference for Holkham Bay and a misspelling of Point Astley, as follows:

**5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. (a) Repealed** / / [THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 10 IN HOLKHAM BAY EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT COKE TO POINT ASTLEY.]

- (b) The waters of District 11
  - (1) in Taku Inlet north of the latitude of Point Bishop;
  - (2) in Port Snettisham east of a line from Point Styleman to Point Anmer;
  - (3) in Holkham Bay east of a line from Point Coke to Point Astley.**
- (c) The waters of District 14 in Glacier Bay north of the latitude of Point Gustavus.
- (d) The waters of District 15 in Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Point Sherman Light.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations defining blue king crab fishing areas in Registration Area A reference Holkham Bay as part of District 10. Holkham Bay is actually part of District 11. This proposal corrects that district reference, and corrects a misspelling for Point Astley.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-094)  
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**PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery; 5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 77.164. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery.** Increase legal size limit for blue king crab in subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries in Registration Areas A and D, as follows:

**5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery.** In the subsistence taking of king crab,

...

(3) in the districts described in 5 AAC 30.200

(A) red and blue king crab may not be taken from April 1 through June 30;

(B) only male red, blue, and golden king crab seven inches or larger [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER,] in width of shell may be taken or possessed;

**5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A.** In Registration Area A, only male king crab seven inches or greater of width of shell may be taken or possessed except that

...

~~(3) repealed~~ / / [MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED];

**5 AAC 34.180. Size limits for Registration Area D.** The size limits for king crab in Registration Area D are the same as those described for king crab in Registration Area A in 5 AAC 34.120.

**5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery.** In the personal use taking of king crab,

...

(2) the daily bag and possession limit is two male king crab; only male red, blue, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL] may be possessed; male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed;

**5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery.**

...

(3) the king crab size limits are as follows:

(A) only male red, blue, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed; and

(B) repealed / / [ONLY BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER IN SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, blue king crab are harvested commercially during the red king crab, golden king crab, and Tanner crab fisheries, and caught during subsistence and personal use fisheries in Southeast Alaska and the Yakutat Area. The current legal size is six and one-half inches carapace width. Other king crab species, such as red king crab and golden king crab, have a current legal size of seven inches carapace width, with biological information to support these legal sizes. There is no biological justification for the six and one-half inch blue king crab legal size. Blue king crab share similar biology with golden king crab and red king crab and have the longest reproductive cycle, making them more susceptible to overfishing at a reduced legal size.

Size limits are an important management tool used to allow harvest on the portion of a crab population that has reached sexual maturity and has been allowed time to contribute reproductively to the population to allow for future recruitment. These regulations will better provide that opportunity under commercial, subsistence, and personal use regulations, and will make size limits consistent for king crab within Southeast and the Yakutat areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-097)  
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**PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.** Establish a harvest reporting permit for sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in waters of Section 11-A, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(e) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

**5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area.**

(e) In the waters of District 11, as described in 5 AAC 33.200(k),

...

**(3) if sport fishing for shrimp in the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, a harvest recording form is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.016.**

5 AAC 77.660 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

**5 AAC 77.660. Personal use shrimp fishery.** In the personal use taking of shrimp,

...

**(7) in the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, shrimp may be taken only under the authority of a permit issued under 5 AAC 77.015; only one permit may be issued to a household each year; a permit holder shall record harvest information on forms provided by the department.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Due to low shrimp abundance as indicated by declining commercial fishery catch per unit of effort in Section 11-A,

the commercial fishery was closed in 2013 to allow the shrimp stock to rebuild. In addition, the department closed the sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in Section 11-A by emergency order on July 1, 2013. There are limited personal use and sport fishery harvest data available for this area; however, creel census data from 2003–2007 indicate that combined sport and personal use fishery harvests were equal to commercial harvests during that time. This proposal seeks to improve effort and harvest information for sport and personal use shrimp fisheries in Section 11-A when these fisheries are reopened.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-099)

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**PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeastern Alaska commercial spot shrimp fishery, as follows:

It is requested that the Board renew policy direction to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) respecting introduction of spawner index management, with clear instructions that test fishing be continued, and carried out thoroughly and properly in adherence with such guidance and agreed protocols.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish a spawner index management system for the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery.

For the January, 2012 Southeast shellfish meeting I submitted a proposal under this same title (Proposal 171 / page 148 in the 2012 proposal book) stating:

"A spawner index system such as used in British Columbia is generally recognized to offer the best available in-season management and optimal resource utilization. Spawner index uses a defined ratio of males to females in the catch to determine if the fishery in a given area should remain open or be closed. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) should direct the department to begin moving toward this kind of system in the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery, with a goal of full implementation by the 2015 board cycle. Interim steps could include testing of the system in selected areas."

This proposal resulted in creation of an industry / management committee to address the issue at that board meeting. Good progress was made. Two test areas were identified, and protocols for proceeding were agreed to. The board ratified the effort and provided regulatory flexibility to exceed guideline harvest level's (GHL) in those areas if spawner indexing indicated fishing could continue beyond the established GHL. The Legislature appropriated funds for the project. ADF&G personnel subsequently traveled to British Columbia to consult with their Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada counterparts on implementation of a spawner index. In sum, everything was in place for a successful multi-year test of spawner index management, which offered the long-term prospect for improved inseason management and better economic results for fishermen.

Unfortunately, in key test instances in both the 2012 and 2013 seasons, a local management biologist elected to close the fishery contrary to the spawner index protocols, thereby compromising the science of the test fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Fisk (EF-C14-156)

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**PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Establish management direction to modify commercial pot shrimp fishery GHs based on indicators of shrimp population size determined by CPUE, size data, and geographic distribution, as follows:

**5 AAC 31.145 SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (REGISTRATION AREA A) POT SHRIMP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp; and

(B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;

(2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to

(A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;

(B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;

(C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;

(D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

**(E) harvest levels will move in relation to indicators of the population size. Indicators of population size include but are not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data if available.**

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) - (10), and (12) - (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990-1991 season through the 1994-1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995–1996 season through the 1999–2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently the Department management is very slow to respond to changes in the shrimp population by increasing or decreasing harvest. This results in lost economic opportunity to fishermen when populations are increasing and results in damage to the stocks when populations are declining. We believe that there are stock indicators of abundance that could be more effectively used such as but not limited to CPUE, size data, geographic distribution of shrimp within an area and survey data when available.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (EF-C14-139)  
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**PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Provide additional commercial pot shrimp fishery management flexibility in specific fishing locales in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.115 Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A. (a) **Except as provided for in 5 AAC 31.145 (h), the** [THE] following are the district guideline harvest ranges for the taking of shrimp by pots in Registration Area A:

- (1) District 1: 0 – 164,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (2) District 2: 0 – 120,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (3) District 3:
  - (A) Section 3-A: 0–264,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
  - (B) Sections 3-B and 3-C, combined: 0 – 70,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (4) District 4: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (5) District 5: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (6) District 6: 0–82,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (7) District 7: 0–104,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (8) District 8: 0–28,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (9) District 9: 0–18,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (10) District 10: 0–58,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (11) District 11
  - (A) Sections: 11-A, 11-B, and 11-C, combined: 0–15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp;
  - (B) Section 11-D: 0–30,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (12) District 12:
  - (A) Tenakee Inlet: 0–34,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
  - (B) remainder of District 12: 0–15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (13) District 13:
  - (A) Sections 13-A and 13-B, combined 0 – 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp;

- (B) Section 13-C: 0–50,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (14) District 14: 0–20,000 pounds of spot shrimp;
- (15) District 15: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp;
- (16) District 16: 0–20,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp.

(b) For the purposes of this section, District 12: Tenakee Inlet includes the waters of District 12 that are west of a line from the easternmost tip of East Point to South Passage Point.

5 AAC 31.145 Southeastern Alaska (Registration Area A) Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

(a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to provide the department with direction for the management of the spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) and coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus hypsinotus*) stocks in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska). The department shall manage the spot and coonstripe shrimp stocks for sustained yield according to the principles specified in the management plan under this section.

(b) The department shall manage

(1) all the districts or portions of districts, in Registration Area A based on the harvest of spot shrimp, except that

(A) District 11 shall be managed based on the harvest of spot and coonstripe shrimp; and

(B) Districts 15 and 16 shall be managed based on the harvest of coonstripe shrimp;

(2) the spot and coonstripe shrimp fisheries to

(A) maintain a number of age classes of shrimp to ensure the long-term viability of those stocks and reduce the dependence on annual recruitment;

(B) reduce fishing periods for shrimp stocks during the biologically sensitive periods of the shrimp's life cycle, such as egg hatch, growth, and recruitment, and when shrimp stocks are considered to be poor quality for the market place;

(C) reduce mortality of small shrimp of any species;

(D) maintain an adequate broodstock for the rebuilding of the shrimp stocks, if rebuilding becomes necessary.

(c) Repealed 5/11/2012.

(d) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open a shrimp fishing season from May 15 through July 31 (summer season) in a district where the guideline harvest range was not reached during the season specified in 5 AAC 31.110 (winter season).

(e) The guideline harvest ranges for spot shrimp are specified in 5 AAC 31.115(1) – (10), and (12) – (14), and are based primarily on the average catch of pot shrimp from the 1990–1991 season through the 1994–1995 season.

(f) Repealed 7/18/2003.

(g) There are no specific guideline harvest ranges for coonstripe shrimp, but the allowable harvest of coonstripe shrimp will be based on the average catch of coonstripe shrimp in each district during the 1995–1996 season through the 1999–2000 season. The provisions of this subsection do not apply in Districts 15 and 16.

**(h) The department may select areas listed in 5 AAC 31.115 to provide inseason management flexibility with management strategies. The department will continue to manage the pot shrimp fishery in these selected areas as specified in 5 AAC 31.145(b).**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current guideline harvest range (GHR) needs to be exempted in areas that are using an experimental harvest strategy. While the board adopted amended language at the 2011 board meeting in RC 29, the language was not implemented into regulation. The language adopted allowed for experimental harvest strategies in consultation with industry and the shrimp task force to be implemented. Industry believes that one of the experimental harvest strategies has promise and would like to expand the strategy into other districts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (EF-C14-140)

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**PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 31.105. Description of Registration Area A districts and sections; 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Divide District 1 into three distinct commercial pot shrimp fishing areas, as follows:

District 1 will be divided into three separate shrimp management areas. Area S1 will be all waters of District 1 north and east of a line from Pt. Sykes to Pt. Alava and north and east of a line from Survey Pt. to Camano Pt. Area S2 will be all areas of District 1 south of a line from Camano Pt. to Survey Pt and south of a line from Pt. Alava to Pt. Sykes and north of Foggy Pt, this area will include all waters of George Inlet, Carroll Inlet and Thorne Arm. Area S3 will be all waters of District 1 South and East of Foggy Pt. including all waters of Portland Canal. Each area will be allowed 25,000 pot lifts and will then close.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** District 1 is the largest geographic area used to manage the pot shrimp fishery in Southeast. This area needs to be broken into smaller areas that will allow the department to manage the discrete shrimp populations instead of as one large population. In the recent past this area has closed when some parts of the area had not had any harvesting take place. The department staff is also quite busy during this time of year and there has been a reluctance to vary the current management strategy to allow access to areas that are unfished or to take advantage of areas of abundance within this district.

Implementing the following management plan will allow the fleet to cover the grounds with each area and catch shrimp if they are available, while not allowing fishing to continue on grounds once they have been already fished.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brennon Eagle (EF-C14-099)

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**PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A.** Modify commercial pot shrimp fishery reporting requirements for Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.143 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SHRIMP VESSELS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. (a) Unless otherwise specified by the department, the owner or operator of a commercial shrimp vessel operating pot gear in Registration Area A shall report by telephone or in person to a local representative of the department within two business days of deploying shrimp gear and two business days after ceasing shrimp fishing in any district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, including the following information:

(1) the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the fishing period in any district or portion of a district;

(2) other information requested by the department for the purpose of conserving or developing shrimp resources.

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

(1) unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department, each week an owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel, or the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-seller vessel, operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurs, before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

(A) the permit holder's name;

(B) the name and ADF&G license plate number of the shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel;

(C) the following information regarding ADF&G fish tickets:

(i) ADF&G fish ticket number of each fish ticket used since the last contact;

(ii) date of landing on each fish ticket;

(iii) district and statistical area on each fish ticket;

(iv) the number of pot lifts on each fish ticket; (v) days that pots soaked on each fish ticket;

(vi) weight of spot and coon shrimp per fish ticket specifying whether whole or tail weight;

**(vii) the size mix of the shrimp that were sorted for sale**

(D) date of last delivery;

(E) any other information the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The department has identified not having the size information from the pot shrimp fishery in managing the fishery as a problem. The industry has submitted proposals in the past to require reporting of shrimp size mix previously. The department has opposed those proposals previously but when industry

suggests ways to manage the fishery differently, we are told they don't have the information to implement the possible strategies. A volunteer program between the department and industry has existed for a while to provide the size mix of shrimp that was sorted for sale and allowed for an experimental management strategy to be implemented in District 7 for the last three years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (EF-C14-138)  
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**PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.** Standardize, limit, and reduce commercial shrimp pot gear in Registration Area A, as follows:

Limit shrimp pot gear as follows:

1. Small pots:
  - a. Reduce the maximum limit of small pots from 140 to 100 per license;
  - b. Limit each string to be comprised of five pots only;
  - c. Pots must be 15 fathoms apart on a string.
2. Large pots:
  - a. Reduce the maximum limit of large pots from 100 to 75 per license;
  - b. Limit each string to be comprised of three pots only;
  - c. Pots must be 20 fathoms apart on a string.
3. In addition to the pot limits described above, single-pot deployment would not be allowed.
4. Gear would be limited to one pull per day, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Standardization and reduction of shrimp pot gear.

Currently the pot shrimp fishery is much like a derby style fishery, with most districts open less than one month in order to prevent overfishing. This proposal would provide better control by managers and allow longer openings. Managers would be able to more accurately determine how much linear coverage is being fished in a district at any time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Don Westlund (HQ-F14-014)  
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**PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 31.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.** Clarify use of other gear during a commercial shrimp season in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.128(b) is amended to read:

- (b) In an area open to fishing for shrimp, a vessel operator may not operate more than the number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e), including [BOTH] commercial shrimp pots and any type of **sport, personal use, or** subsistence pots.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Resident commercial shrimp fishermen fishing in areas with a positive customary and traditional use finding are restricted to the

number of pots specified in 5 AAC 31.124(e) when setting subsistence shrimp pots while concurrently commercial shrimp fishing, but are not similarly restricted in setting sport or personal use shrimp pots. 5 AAC 31.124(e) restricts the number of shrimp pots that may be set for commercial and subsistence uses, in aggregate, to 140 small pots or 100 large pots. In consideration of subsistence priority and regulatory consistency, sport and personal use shrimp pots should be added to the regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-100)  
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**PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Revise the Southeastern Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October commercial fishery, regionwide, for non-spot shrimp, as follows:

Actual regulatory language and the enforcement and management measures for the fishery should be worked out with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) and members representing the fishery. I highly recommend a summer fishery however; as it generally dodges some reproductive cycles and market conditions are better.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Revise the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan to include an April to October fishery, region wide, for non-spot prawn shrimp. This would include, but not be limited to coonstripe, humpback and pink shrimp. Spot shrimp are a small percentage of the top grade shrimp available to and easily caught by pots in Southeast Alaska. Pots catch smaller quantities of larger sized and higher quality shrimp than trawlers working on the same species. The current spot prawn seasons are very short and occur during winter, leaving fishers to do clean-ups or put the gear away for 10 months. The extra fishing time on other species should, eventually, markedly increase the value of this fishery. Pot fishermen can easily and cleanly target these other species, even in close proximity to large numbers of spot prawns. Detailed log books along with weekly reporting, or call-ins, facilitate enforcement and provide data to assist management. This fishery has the potential to take pressure off the summer Dungeness crab season also, among other benefits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stephen N. Farler (EF-C14-018)  
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**PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 31.161. Shrimp trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area D; 5 AAC 31.166. Shrimp trawl guideline harvest range for Registration Area D; and 5 AAC 31.170. Lawful gear for Registration Area D.** Remove otter trawl as legal trawl gear in commercial shrimp trawl fishery in Registration Area D, as follows:

Recommend that the original shrimp trawl regulation be reenacted but excluding the otter trawl fishery as an acceptable gear type.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Open the Yakutat area to the shrimp beam trawl commercial fishery. We emphasize that this opening be for beam trawl fishery only. This fishery has shown a minimal impact on all non-targeted marine species. By freezing on board the fishing vessel and possibly storing in on land facilities, we feel the shrimp beam trawl fishery will have a positive socioeconomic impact on the Yakutat area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul D. Prevatt and Jess Sims (HQ-F14-058)  
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**PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 31.125. Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A.** Establish maximum vessel length for beam trawl shrimp fishery in Registration Area A, as follows:

5 AAC 31.005 REGISTRATION AREAS ESTABLISHED; REGISTRATION OF VESSELS should be revised as follows:

- (a) unchanged
- (b) unchanged

(c) The maximum allowable length of commercial shrimp trawl vessels in Registration Area A shall not exceed 65 feet length overall, provided that vessels that exceed that length and have been duly registered to trawl for shrimp in Area A in at least three years since 2000 may continue to be registered for the fishery. Any replacement of such a vessel shall comply with the 65 foot length limitation. This length limitation shall not apply to floating processors as defined in 5 AAC 39.130 (k) (9) or tenders for shrimp as defined in 5 AAC 31.033.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish size limit on vessels in Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery

There is currently no size limit on vessels that can be employed in the Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery. However, the board has acted indirectly in the past to effectively limit the size and type of vessel that could be employed. When it prohibited the use of otter trawls in 1997, making beam trawls the only permissible gear; the board's goal was to prevent the introduction of large, factory-type vessels typical in other areas. The concern was that such large vessels constituted a threat to sustainable management of the fishery and to the economic stability of a long-established small boat fishery. Otter trawls were viewed as synonymous with such large vessels. Hence, banning otter trawls was seen as a way to prevent large vessels entering and over-capitalizing the fishery. Also cited were concerns about environmental impacts, particularly with bycatch. The small-scale and slow towing speeds of traditional Southeast Alaska beam trawl gear were seen as relatively environmentally benign.

However, all beam trawling is not inherently small-scale and environmentally friendly. Large beam trawlers are used extensively in the North Sea. Powerful vessels in excess of 100 feet, with 1,000 to 3,000 horsepower, tow very heavy gear at speeds of six to seven knots. Nothing in current regulation prevents introduction of similar large-scale, potentially very destructive technology in the Southeast Alaska Shrimp Trawl Fishery.

Large vessels are not required for successful prosecution and re-development of the Southeast Alaska Shrimp Fishery, including development of significant onboard value adding capability. This has been demonstrated by smaller vessels already in the fishery. (For example, one vessel, owned and operated out of Wrangell has been a very successful and consistent producer, doing top quality, carefully graded, frozen at sea shrimp for many years.) The State of Alaska has a 65' limit for small-scale catcher processor vessels under Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) Direct Market Vessel License. It is proposed that 65' be established as the maximum length overall (LOA) for shrimp beam trawl vessels in Area A, using the same measurement rules applied to salmon seine vessels. There are some beam trawlers that currently exceed this length, but most are smaller. It is suggested that those that exceed 65' be "grandfathered in" if they have been in the fleet for some time.

Failure to institute a reasonable vessel size limit leaves the door open to possible introduction of much larger vessels as interest in the fishery renews. This could lead to a classic over-capitalization "arms race" in which existing, small-scale Alaskan shrimp fishermen would be at a severe disadvantage. Individual fishermen and the regional economy could suffer. Instituting the proposed vessel size limit would put reasonable development sideboards in place to complement and protect limited entry rules and conservative biological management already in place.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Fisk (EF-C14-144)  
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**PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 31.125. Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A.**  
Modify beam trawl gear specifications for Registration Area A, as follows:

Draft new regulation language:

**5 AAC 31.125 LAWFUL SHRIMP TRAWL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA A.**

(a) unchanged

(b) unchanged

(c) The maximum size of beam that may be employed may not exceed 60 feet in length. Multiple trawls may be used provided that the aggregate length of all beams employed shall not exceed 60 feet in total length.

(d) The maximum weight of the beam trawl gear employed shall not exceed 3,000 pounds, not including nets and towing warps. Those items to be included in calculation of this weight limit are the beam itself, D-rings, staves or other devices providing vertical opening, shoes or other bottom contact devices, braces, bridles and connecting hardware, footrope and roller gear, and any weights, including chain, attached to or suspended from the foregoing gear and / or the towing warp. Multiple trawls may be used provided the aggregate weight of all beams as described above shall not exceed 3,000 pounds in total weight.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Limit total beam length, regulate total beam weight, eliminate single net requirement.

5 AAC 31.125 Lawful shrimp trawl gear for Registration Area A, subsection (c) states “a registered shrimp vessel may not have at any time more than two trawl nets on board the vessel. However, only one trawl may be in the water at any time.” Other than the mesh size restrictions provided in sub-section (b), this is the only regulation defining beam trawl gear in the Southeast Alaska beam trawl shrimp fishery. The purpose of the existing regulation is to limit the amount of gear that can be fished, thereby limiting the catching power of vessels — the idea being to both slow down the pace of the fishery and level the playing field amongst the various participating vessels.

The vessels that have traditionally participated in the Southeast Alaska beam trawl fishery have been limited in practical terms to beams of about 60' in length. Above this size the rigs simply become too ponderous to handle safely or efficiently. Moreover, design of the gear and traditional rigging resulted in gear that was most effective only at rather slow towing speeds of 1 to 1.5 knots per hour. The net result of traditional practice and the “only one trawl in the water at any time” regulation has been to place a reasonable catching power limitation on vessels in the beam trawl shrimp fishery. Further, the slow towing speeds of traditional gear had a positive environmental effect of limiting bycatch and bottom disturbance. Species like halibut and salmon can easily avoid small, slow moving traditional Southeast Alaska beam trawl gear. However, technology is currently available that would meet the technical requirements of existing regulations, but which would entirely upset the desirable overall balance of catching power, resource availability, and environmental protection that should be maintained.

At the same time, there have been advances in net and rigging technology that could have positive environmental and operating safety benefits, but which are not available to Alaska fishermen under the current regulation. Accordingly, it is proposed that 5 AAC 31.125 (c) be replaced with new subsections that will maintain current catching power and environmental compatibility while allowing fishermen to design and use safer, less expensive and even more environmentally friendly beam trawl gear, as follows:

1. The overall length of beam trawls will be specified, with the maximum total beam length not to exceed 60' (This limit accommodates all beam trawls known to have been in use in the last 10-12 years);
2. The total weight of beams in use shall not exceed 3,000 pounds, not including the net(s). The weight limit will apply to the beams themselves, the D-rings, shoes or staves, the footrope, and any weights attached to those structures or suspended from towing warps, bridles, Delta plates, etc. that weight down the overall trawl and make it easier to maintain bottom contact;
3. The number of beam trawls fished will no longer be limited, provided that the aggregate length of all the beams in use may not exceed the total beam length limit of 60', or the total allowable weight of 3,000 pounds. In other words a fishermen would be able to fish a single 60' trawl with a beam weight of 3,000 pounds, or two 30', 1,500 pound trawls, or even three 20', 1,000 pound trawls if he so chose.

The catching power of a trawl net is determined by its mouth opening and the speed with which it is towed over the ground. Mouth opening is principally a function of horizontal and dimension. The proposed maximum 60' of beam obviously limits the total horizontal opening. (Vertical opening is generally less critical, and the general hydrodynamics of nets prevents this dimension getting "out of bounds" in any practical sense.)

The proposed limitation on the weight of the beam structures and footrope will act to limit towing speed to that which has been typical for Southeast Alaska. This is critical because, all other things being equal, a net towed at 3 knots will have twice the catching capability of one towed at 1.5 knots, simply by dint of covering twice the ground in the same time. Greater weight allows bottom contact to be maintained at higher towing speeds. It should be noted that beam trawl technology currently in use in the North Sea off Holland, Belgium and Denmark is marked by very powerful vessels towing very, very heavy gear at speeds of 6 to 7 knots. Nothing in our current regulations prevents the introduction of similar gear to the Southeast Alaska Beam Trawl Shrimp Fishery. Not only would such gear completely upset the existing catching power equilibrium in the fleet, it would have potentially very profound, negative environmental impacts in terms of bottom disruption and increased bycatch. The proposed 3,000 pound beam weight limit will accommodate even the most "beefy" of traditional Southeast Alaska gear, while effectively barring the introduction of extremely heavy, destructive gear.

With the overall length and weight of beam thus limited, there is no reason to limit the number of rigs employed so long as they do not, in aggregate exceed those limits. However, there are good safety and environmental reasons why multiple rigs should be allowed provided that, in aggregate they stay within the overall beam length and weight limits. A single 60', 3,000 pound beam with netting, floats, etc. can easily exceed 4,000 pounds in total weight. Add in a good catch of 2,000 to 3,000 pounds, and you have a large, ponderous and potentially dangerous mass of gear and shrimp. Traditional single rigged Southeast Alaska beam trawls are most often towed from a block mounted on the vessel's boom, and are recovered over the side. This method creates stability issues that limit the weather in which vessels can safely fish. And the high towing point is believed to be implicated in at least one vessel capsizing and loss of life in recent times.

Allowing vessels to double rig (or even triple rig) would result in lower towing points, hence greater stability, and would more than halve the weight of the individual trawls, making them easier and safer for the crew to handle. Two 30' trawls require about half the total netting needed for a single 60' trawl, meaning less initial expense, less drag, hence less fuel used while towing, and less material used. This same principle can also be applied by rigging two smaller nets on an individual beam. This is called duplex rigging. Obviously, these advantages cannot be obtained under the existing, outmoded single net rule.

What would happen if no action is taken? Not giving fishermen the option to use multiple trawls will mean significant economic, safety and environmental benefits will be foregone, and needed technological innovation in the fishery will be stifled. But, if multiple rigs are permitted without also regulating total beam length and weight, the opportunity to use multiple nets will likely be used only to increase the total amount of gear deployed and upset the existing catching power

balance in the fleet. This would be felt most by smaller vessel operators. By the same token, allowing multiple rigs with the suggested limitations will not hurt or disadvantage operators who wish to continue using traditional single rigged trawls. But, regulating total beam length and weight is necessary even if multiple rigs are not permitted, as nothing in current regulation prevents introduction of very large and heavy gear that is both environmentally undesirable and destructive of the traditional catching power balance amongst vessels in the fleet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Fisk (EF-C14-153)  
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**PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A.** Clarify commercial beam trawl registration location as ADF&G office specified by the department, as follows:

5 AAC 31.143 is amended to read:

(b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

...

(2) each week an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G **office specified by the department** [AREA OFFICE IN PETERSBURG] before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

...

(c) The fish ticket requirements for commercial shrimp pot and beam trawl vessels in Registration Area A are as follows:

...

(2) an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel shall complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, and in which shrimp are harvested and processed on board the vessel; fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of closure of a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level; a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor who has stopped fishing in a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level shall contact, by telephone or in person, the **ADF&G office specified by the department** [LOCAL ADF&G AREA OFFICE IN PETERSBURG] and report the information specified in this paragraph before fishing in a new district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The regulation currently requires beam trawl shrimp catcher processors to contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Petersburg area office for their weekly call, and when changing districts. The fishery is no longer

managed out of the Petersburg area office, thus maintaining a requirement for communications to be with this office causes unneeded confusion. The proposed language would allow the department to designate a single contact point preseason.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-098)  
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**PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 31.XXX. Shrimp beam trawl fishery task force.** Establish a shrimp beam trawl fishery task force, as follows:

Recommendation: Establish a Southeast Alaska Shrimp Beam Trawl Task Force and direct it to examine:

- i.) Economic revitalization of the Area A shrimp beam trawl fishery, including support for both the catcher (for peeling) and catcher processor sectors, and promotion of value maximization and full utilization of the resource; and
- ii) All rules currently applicable to the fishery for efficacy, and with recommending changes, additions or deletions to such rules to benefit fleet economics, safety and resource conservation. Given the industry’s dire economic straits, the board should provide for rule changes and implementation of Task Force recommendations within the 3-year cycle so as not to delay or forestall vitally needed changes.”

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp Beam Trawl Fishing Seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A. etc. Establish a Shrimp Beam Trawl Task Force

For the January, 2012 Southeast shellfish meeting in Petersburg I submitted a proposal under this same title (Proposal 177 / page 154 in the 2012 proposal book) stating:

“The board should establish a Beam Trawl Task Force tasked with:

- i) Economic revitalization of the Area A shrimp beam trawl fishery, including support for both the catcher (for peeling) and catcher processor sectors, and promotion of value maximization and full utilization of the resource; and
- ii) Examining all rules currently applicable to the fisher for efficacy, and with recommending changes, additions or deletions to such rules to benefit fleet economics, safety and resource conservation. Given the industry’s dire economic straits, the board should provide for rule changes and implementation of Task Force recommendations within the three year cycle so as not to delay or forestall vitally needed changes.”

In framing the issue for the board I noted that the shrimp trawl fishery — while in trouble — was a venerable contributor to the regional economy, with nearly a century of biologically sustainable economic output. In 2010 only 4 of 27 permits were fished, and landings were down to less than 3% of the prior 15-year average. Many of the problems faced by the industry were due to fierce

international economic competition, but I also noted failure to innovate and an economic model — supported by existing fishery management — built around the lowest value product forms.

In 2012 the board recognized the problems facing the industry, but elected not to put a formal task force in place, instead it directing the department to work in “normal channels” with industry to identify possible management improvements.

Shrimp beam trawl landings bounced back somewhat in 2011, with some 414,000 pounds taken as a result of some buying interest by an out of state peeler. However, they slumped again in 2012 to 233,000 pounds — less than 10% of the mid-point guide harvest range (GHR). Participation remained very low, with only 6 fishermen making landings, and the value of permits dropped to an all-time low of just \$12,900, considerably less than a third of the 2001 value of \$43,800. In sum, the fishery remains in dire economic shape, with no in-region processor, a few fishermen struggling along with meager direct markets, and most just “sitting it out”, hoping for better condition.

Could a task force have helped? The answer is “yes”. A task force could have catalyzed renewed interest. It could have worked on regulatory issues of importance to long-term regeneration of the fishery. (I have introduced proposals on two such issues – vessel size and easing a gear restriction — for consideration at the 2015 Southeast Shellfish meeting. But many others, like mesh sizes, additional open areas, etc. could benefit from industry/management deliberation.) The existence of a task force could even have helped the industry raise needed funds. (Just recently a NOAA S-K grant application to help fund industry marketing, product development and organization failed in large measure because it could not be linked to an existing management improvement effort. The application was sponsored by Southeast Conference, on behalf of the industry, but the existence of a Board of Fisheries empowered task force would have greatly strengthened its rationale.)

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Fisk (EF-C14-178)  
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**PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A.** Close a portion of District 8 near Petersburg to commercial pot shrimp fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 31.136 CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. Shrimp may not be taken **(6) with trawls and pots in the waters of Frederick Sound from Point Frederick to a point northeast of the Sukoi Islands of 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 Green Point.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The intensity of the commercial pot fishery and the duration of the trawl shrimp fishery immediately adjacent to the City of Petersburg reduces the opportunities and availability of spot prawns, pink shrimp, coonstripe shrimp, and to a lesser degree sidestripe shrimp to personal use users. A small

commercial closure around the community will provide for the personal use of shrimp that are currently reduced by commercial harvests and seasons in the area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Burrell (EF-C14-070)  
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**PROPOSAL 108** – 5 AAC 38.140. **Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Clarify weekly commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140(b) and (d) are amended to read:

(b) Sea cucumbers may be taken from October 1 through March 31. Fishing periods will be as follows:

(1) [THE] fishing [PERIODS IN OCTOBER] will occur during periods set by the commissioner by emergency order; the **weekly fishing period** [PERIODS] will be on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; **beginning in November, fishing periods may be extended by emergency order to obtain the guideline harvest level;**

(2) [THE FISHING PERIODS FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH WILL OCCUR DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON TUESDAY EACH WEEK DURING PERIODS SET BY THE COMMISSIONER BY EMERGENCY ORDER, EXCEPT THAT] during the week of Thanksgiving, **the fishing period** [PERIODS] will occur **on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** [DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON SUNDAY AND ONE-HALF OF THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON MONDAY; THESE FISHING PERIODS MAY BE EXTENDED BY EMERGENCY ORDER TO OBTAIN THE GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL].

...

(d) Except as specified in (l) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any **weekly** fishing period established by the department. Harvest limits may be repealed by emergency order if guideline harvest levels have not been reached. **Open fishing times occurring on Monday and Tuesday each week, or on Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving, are considered one open period.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Language in the sea cucumber management plan defining a fishing period is unclear and confusing. Open fishing times that occur on Monday and Tuesday (or Sunday and Monday during the week of Thanksgiving) are not clearly defined as one fishing period. This is important since there is a 2,000 pound trip limit for each fishing period established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department). There is general understanding among users, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the department that fishery openings occurring on Monday and Tuesday are considered one fishing period and the trip limit applies accordingly. Clarification of the weekly fishing period will remove any confusion that exists.

All fishery openings are being described by starting and ending times, in place of “daylight hours” from November through March, to reflect actual practice.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-101)  
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**PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Reduce commercial sea cucumber fishing periods in October and establish specific fishing times in November, as follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (a)  
(1) the fishing periods in October will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order; the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **The fishing periods starting in November will occur during periods set by the commissioner, by emergency order, the fishing periods will be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Reduce the sea cucumber fishery from 1 1/2 days to one day per week during the month of October. This may help extend the season. The fishing time beginning in November would go back to 1 1/2 days per week.

**PROPOSED BY:** Phil Doherty (EF-C14-059)  
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**PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Allow increased trip limit and permit stacking in commercial sea cucumber fishery, follows:

5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan  
(d) Except as specified in (l) of this section, a CFEC permit holder may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumber during any fishing period established by the department **except if they are operated a stacked permit which will allow them to harvest an additional 50% of the established harvest limit.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The sea cucumber fishery is facing a declining resource due to an increasing sea otter population. Sea otters will severely reduce if not eliminate sea cucumbers in a harvest area once they become established in that area. Sea cucumber divers are looking at reducing the amount of effort on the fishing grounds as areas are eliminated from harvest and the remaining fishing grounds become more crowded. Sea cucumber divers are managed on a 2,000 pound trip limit per open period. Sea cucumber divers would like to be able to stack permits with the second permit only being allowed 50% of the harvest limit. That is if a diver buys a second transferable permit then if the established harvest limit is 2,000 pounds the diver could harvest 3,000 pounds.

This should not affect the department's abilities to correctly manage the fishery. They would need to know how many stacked permits are available to fish in making their weekly harvest calculations.

This may also slow the fishery down which may help the market price.

**PROPOSED BY:** Phil Doherty (EF-C14-057)

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**PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Allow department to set trip limits on geoduck harvest based on market conditions, as follows:

5AAC 38.142 Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan

(k) The commissioner may establish the maximum amount of geoducks that may be harvested during a fishing period. If the commissioner determines that a rate of delivering geoducks will contribute to conservation, law enforcement, waste reduction, or assist the development of the fishery, **or if market conditions warrant a reduction in the fishery**, the commissioner may close, by emergency order, a fishing period in a designated area, and reopen a fishing period in the same area for which the commissioner designates a rate of delivery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to be able to use trip limits at times in the geoduck clam fishery to limit the harvest to meet marketing demands. While 5AAC 38.142 (k) allows for trip limits to "assist the development of the fishery" it is unclear and perhaps allocative for ADF&G to impose trip limits if SARDFA's Geoduck Committee recommends it. The department has allowed trip limits in the past due to marketing problems, but only when 100% of the Geoduck Committee recommends it.

SARDFA would like to allow the department, working cooperatively with SARDFA's Geoduck Committee, to use trip limits when a majority of the Geoduck Committee votes to impose a trip limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Phil Doherty (EF-C14-056)

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**PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Establish a weekly trip limit of 1,000 pounds of geoduck clams for each CFEC permit holder with no more than two permit holders on a vessel, as follows:

Establish a weekly trip limit of 1,000 pounds of geoduck clams per valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) geoduck permit holder.

During an open fishing period, no more than two individuals, each of whom possess a CFEC geoduck clam permit, may operate diving gear and land commercially harvested geoduck clams from a vessel that is licensed or registered to commercially fish for geoduck clams.

No vessel that is licensed or registered to commercially fish for geoduck clams may land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of geoduck clams per week.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue for the Board of Fisheries to address is the "derby-style" geoduck clam fishery in Southeast Alaska. This manner of fishing greatly contributes to a depressed fisherman price and substantially increases diving risks by concentrating vessels and divers in small areas for limited time openings. This has resulted in greater than normal fishing risks, i.e. diver entanglements, vessel confrontations and low fishing prices.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cornelis Bakker (EF-C14-167)  
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**PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 02.15X. Closed waters in Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area. 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area. 5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 34.15X. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 35.15X. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 38.1XX. Closed waters in Registration Area A. 5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeastern Alaska Area. 5 AAC 77.6XX. Closed waters in the Southeastern Alaska Area. This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting. Prohibit fishing, around Cache Island, for bottomfish, crab, and shrimp by all users, as follows:**

Create a micro marine conservation zone around Cache Island, Naha Bay Southeast Alaska; where all bottom fishing, crabbing and shrimping will be prohibited by all groups. The no fish zone will extend from shore out to 300 feet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Help depleted bottom fish rebound and relieve stress of over fishing for bottom fish species and shellfish.

Micro marine conservation zones have been successfully created around the globe and have enabled fish populations to rebound successfully from the stresses of over fishing. Rather than regulate the single species of fishes; micro conservation zones help to restore and sustain an entire ecosystem and their inhabitants. In setting aside a small area; the conservation zone will have little effect on user groups. But their impact on the fish populations will be significant over

time and will benefit areas beyond the conservation zone. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough set aside all the islands from Clover Pass to Naha Bay as preservation islands where no development is allowed. We are taking it one step further and creating the water around Cache Island as a conservation zone. They work together.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naha Conservation

(EF-C14-187)

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