

PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 34.935. Closed waters in Registration Area Q. Extend the closure line north for the Norton Sound Section commercial king crab fishery from 64° 10' N. lat to 64° 15' N. lat., as follows:

Make the north closure line straight across the west to East on the 64 15' N Lat. line.

5 AAC-34.395. Closed waters in Registration Area Q.

- (a) Except as provided in 5 AAC 34.915 (a) (6), all waters of the Norton Sound Section enclosed by a line from 64° 24.00'N. lat. 166° 15.00'W long., to 64° 15.00'N. lat., 166° 15.00' W long., [to **64° 15.00'N. LAT., 163° 30.00'W LONG., to 64° 10.00'N. LAT., 163° 30.00'W LONG., to 64° 10.00'N. LAT., 162° 00.00' W LONG., to 64° 15.00'N. LAT., 162° 00.00' W LONG.,**] to 64° 15.00'N. lat., 161° 30.00' W long., to 64° 00.00' N, lat., 161° 30.00' W long., to 64° 00.00' N lat., 161° 15.00' W long., to 63° 32.00'N lat., 161° 15.00' W long. are closed to the taking of king crab during the summer season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to return the closure line along the north coast of Norton Sound to the old closure line that ran continuously on 64° 15'N Lat. While closure areas are important to protect female and juvenile crab. The need for as much closed area has decrease with the commercial crab fleet now require to use escapement mesh or rings. The use of these rings has decrease the number female and juvenile crab handled by the commercial crab fleet. Returning to the old closure line will also allow the commercial crabbers to spread out and reduce gear conflicts between commercial crabbers. The straight line across will make it fair for crabbers leaving both Nome and Golovin. Currently crabbers from Golovin must travel further to get to open are that those in Nome.

PROPOSED BY: Randy Takak

(HQ-F16-038)
