

PROPOSAL 209

5 AAC 32.4XX. Operation of pot gear for Registration Area J.

Specify legal operation of commercial Dungeness crab pot gear in Registration Area J, as follows:

5 AAC 32.4XX. Operation of pot gear for Registration Area J. (a) All pot gear used for commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Registration Area J shall

- (1) **be removed from the water at least once within a 14-day period; or**
- (2) **have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dungeness crab fisheries in Registration Area J are open access fisheries and there are no limits on the amount of pot gear that can be operated by a vessel. Pots which are not regularly lifted, inspected, and maintained have a greater likelihood of becoming lost or irretrievable. Lost or irretrievable pots may increase Dungeness, Tanner and king crab mortality through ghost fishing and result in gear conflicts with other fisheries that occur after the Dungeness seasons close.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-094)
