PROPOSAL 229

5 AAC 34.612. Harvest levels for golden king crab in Registration Area O.
Repeal fixed total allowable catch (TAC) and adopt an Aleutian Islands golden king crab
harvest strategy that uses biomass estimates generated from the Alaska Department of Fish
and Game stock assessment model to establish TAC, as follows:

Detailed description of the draft harvest strategy will be provided by the Alaska Department of
Fish and Game (department) prior to the March 2018 Statewide Dungeness crab, Shrimp, and other
Miscellaneous Shellfish meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current Aleutian Islands
golden king crab harvest strategy employees a fixed TAC that may be reduced based on fishery
performance and other relative abundance indices, as needed to ensure the stock is managed
sustainably. Over the past several years the department has developed a stock assessment model
for Aleutian Islands golden king crab that provides annual estimates of biomass and harvestable
surplus. This model has undergone extensive review by the North Pacific Fishery Management
Council’s Crab Plan Team and Science and Statistical Committee as well as members of the fishing
industry and the department believes it is appropriate to begin using the model to set TAC.
Adoption of a harvest strategy based on annual estimates of abundance will reduce uncertainty in
the TAC setting process and ensure harvest levels are set sustainably.

PROPOSED BY: Aleutian King Crab Research Foundation
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