PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.
Increase the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 400 pots, as follows:

(a) In Registration Area A, no more than 400 Dungeness crab pots may be operated from a single vessel to take Dungeness crab under any circumstances. A person may not operate more pots than allowed under the terms of that person's CFEC permit. If additional CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel, each additional permit will be allowed to operate one third of the terms of the additional persons CFEC permit aboard that vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Area A Dungeness crab fishery there is too many commercial crab pots fishing. Due to the increased efficiency of the fleet, there is shorter soak times which do not allow non-legal crab to leave the pot through the escape rings.

This proposal would increase the number of crab pots per vessel to 400. This will increase soak times allowing non-legal crab time to escape the pot. This proposal would only give one third of the value of the terms of a stacked permit. This will remove a significant number of pots out of the water for the whole fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes (EF-F17-114)