

## **PROPOSAL 57**

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

Close waters in the Klawock vicinity to sport fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen will be prohibited: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55°34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; at 55°30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55°22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

### **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55°34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; 55°30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55°22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

- Reasoning: economic; Charter businesses have been utilizing these areas to gather crab for profit by supplementing their businesses and decreasing the biomass for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island. Klawock and the surrounding communities have a large subsistence population that relies heavily on subsistence resources.
- Excessive pressure by charter businesses and sea otter population is depleting the resource
- A regulation closure of these specific areas to charter businesses would allow for the sustainability of the species for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island and increase biomass of the species.
- The number of Charter businesses in Craig and Klawock is approximately 150 registered charter vessels multiplied by 4 people @ 5 crab per person per boat = 3000 crab per day that can be taken by Charter businesses
- Economics – charters can afford to buy gas and go beyond these immediate areas surrounding the community of Klawock
- The subsistence users in Klawock have only the bare necessities (18 foot Lund, 40 hp motor at best) to gather subsistence foods. Whereas the Charter businesses have top of the line gear (24 foot North River with twin 150 hp to 300 hp motors)
- In Klawock 73 % of households are at or below the federal and state poverty level and depend on local harvesting to sustain their households
- Klawock population is over half Native and is losing Traditional gathering areas to out of State business owners i.e.; charter businesses
- A majority of Prince of Wales Island communities are economically depressed with high rates of unemployment and other government assistance programs
- High cost of living on Prince of Wales Island
- This area has never been closed to sport fishing (charter businesses) help increase the biomass of Crab

- Depleted areas include all listed; Shinaku Inlet has been completely decimated from over harvesting to include human and marine mammals
- Oral histories have proven factual that these areas have been customary, traditional harvesting areas for the local Tlingit and Haida tribes since time immemorial, since then the population as a whole includes both Native and non-Native that rely on the subsistence lifestyle to sustain their households throughout the year
- There is not a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) in place to better manage local resources for the subsistence user

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom & Brenda Leask, Byron Vaughn Skinna Jr.

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