

PROPOSAL 58

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 crabs by chartered sport fishing boats should be prohibited at least in the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The Klawock Cooperative Association, Tribe cannot speak for other parts of Southeast, Alaska but perhaps the Alaska Board of Fisheries should consider the impact of charter boat harvests of Dungeness crab elsewhere too.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The taking of Dungeness crab by sport fishermen in the areas adjacent to Craig and Klawock is decimating a resource that has traditionally been used for subsistence purposes.

Why it needs to be addressed: Approximately 150 charter boats are licensed to sport fish the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The target fish are salmon and halibut, with bottom fish also taken. But charter operators add a bonus. They set crab pots that they pull up on the way back from a fish run, and the charter fishers are treated to the freshest possible crab dinners. Unlike the subsistence harvesters who fish crab periodically for their families (they don't eat crab every day), charter operators have a steady stream of new clients almost daily throughout their season, so they can leave their crab pots, freshly baited daily, to fish without a break throughout their entire season. A little math shows that they can take thousands of Dungeness crab per day. Title IX of ANILCA provides that rural Alaskans are to be given priority in the use of subsistence foods whenever the viability of the resource is threatened. Subsistence users of Dungeness crabs in the areas mentioned have seen a reduction in the resource. A finite subsistence resource is being diminished by a fishery that is, in effect, an add-on luxury for sports fishers, but a serious threat to subsistence users.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Tribe

(EF-F17-108)
