

**PROPOSAL 69**

**5 AAC 34.115. Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.**

Reduce Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery guideline harvest ranges, as follows:

5 AAC 34.115(b) is amended to read:

(b) In Registration Area A, the guideline harvest ranges for the taking of golden king crab in the following areas are:

- (1) Northern Area: 0 – 145,000 [175,000] pounds;
- (2) Icy Strait Area: 0 – 55,000 [75,000] pounds;
- (3) North Stephens Passage Area: 0 – 25,000 pounds;
- (4) East Central Area: 0 – 225,000 [300,000] pounds;
- (5) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: 0 – 150,000 pounds;
- (6) Lower Chatham Strait Area: 0 – 50,000 pounds;
- (7) Southern Area: 0 – 25,000 pounds;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2009, the Alaska Board of Fisheries increased the upper end of guideline harvest ranges (GHRs) in three of seven golden king crab fishery areas (Northern, Icy Strait, and East Central). The golden king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska has declined considerably since the 2012/2013 season, similar to stock declines during the 1990s after intense fishing pressure in the 1980s. This proposal would lower the upper end of the GHR ranges for the Northern, Icy Strait, and East Central fishery areas to their previous levels which are more representative of the long-term range of harvest levels comprising maximum sustained yield for these stocks than are the status quo GHRs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-107)

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