

PROPOSAL 87

5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.

Open waters of a number of fishing areas previously closed to commercial sea cucumber harvest, as follows:

(k) The following waters are closed to commercial sea cucumber fishing:

- ...
- (k) (2) repealed** (Dist. 2 Kasaan Bay)
- (k) (3) (A) repealed** (Dist. 3 Sukkwan Straits)
- (k) (3) (B) (i) repealed** (Dist. 3 Prince of Wales Island)
- (k) (3) (B) (ii) repealed** (Dist. 3 Port Caldera)
- (k) (4) repealed** (Dist. 5 Shipley Bay)
- (k) (5) repealed** (Dist. 6 Whale Pass/Coffman Cove)
- (k) (6) repealed** (Dist. 9 Rowan Bay)
- (k) (7) repealed** (Dist. 10 Gambier)
- (k) (8) repealed** (Dist. 11 Stephens Pass)
- ...
- (k) (11) (A) repealed** (Section 13-A Chichagof Island)
- (k) (11) (B) repealed** (Section 13-B Whale Bay)
- (k) (12) repealed** (Section 14-B Port Fredrick)
- (k) (13) repealed** (Section 15-C Lynn Canal)
- (k) (14) repealed** (Dist. 16 Torch Bay)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to modify the *Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan* by eliminating several closed waters sections. These closed water are mainly near small towns, but there is no available information to show that allowing a harvest in these areas every three years would harm local harvest of sea cucumbers for personnel or subsistence use.

All of these areas are adjacent to waters open to the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers. This should increase the GHL in years of declining harvest due to sea otters. This modification does not attempt to open areas in SE AK that the department uses as control areas.

What would happen if nothing is changed? The status quo remains. Possible increase in the sea cucumber GHL would not happen.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? At this time we have not considered other solutions. It may be possible to adjust each individual area, but there is no information available showing personnel use sea cucumber harvest within these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-067)
