

PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Open previously non-surveyed fishing areas to a limited commercial harvest of geoducks without a pre-fishery stock assessment survey, as follows:

(g)(1) The department may open for commercial harvest areas that have not been surveyed in order to identify areas that may have commercially viable geoduck beds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to work with ADF&G in opening new geoduck clam areas in Southeast Alaska. Geoduck beds are difficult and expensive for ADF&G to survey and open. SARDFA would like for ADF&G to open areas that have not been surveyed to identify where commercially viable beds might be. If after a small controlled fishery it is determined there is a commercially viable geoduck bed ADF&G would do an official assessment survey and establish a Guideline Harvest Level for future years.

What would happen if nothing is changed? Status quo remains and it becomes more difficult and expensive to expand the geoduck fishery.

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them? ADF&G or SARDFA could do exploratory dives to locate beds, but this is expensive and unreliable for both ADF&G and SARDFA.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-065)
