

**PROPOSAL 208**

**5 AAC 32.425. Lawful gear for Registration Area J.**

Establish pot limits in the Alaska Peninsula District commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as follows:

0-40 ft. 50 pots

Over 40-50 ft. 75 pots

Over 50 ft. 100 pots

Vessels with at least 5 consecutive years participation through the 2017 seasons will be grandfathered at the 100 pot limit regardless of length.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Pot limit in the South Peninsula Dungeness fishery. The SAP Dungeness crab fishery is susceptible to Overcapitilization. More vessels are considering entering the fishery with no pot limits the SAP Dungeness fishery will surely collapse.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kiley Thompson

(EF-F17-113)

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**PROPOSAL 209**

**5 AAC 32.4XX. Operation of pot gear for Registration Area J.**

Specify legal operation of commercial Dungeness crab pot gear in Registration Area J, as follows:

**5 AAC 32.4XX. Operation of pot gear for Registration Area J. (a) All pot gear used for commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Registration Area J shall**

**(1) be removed from the water at least once within a 14-day period; or**

**(2) have all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Dungeness crab fisheries in Registration Area J are open access fisheries and there are no limits on the amount of pot gear that can be operated by a vessel. Pots which are not regularly lifted, inspected, and maintained have a greater likelihood of becoming lost or irretrievable. Lost or irretrievable pots may increase Dungeness, Tanner and king crab mortality through ghost fishing and result in gear conflicts with other fisheries that occur after the Dungeness seasons close.

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

(HQ-F17-094)

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**PROPOSAL 210**

**5 AAC 38.420. Fishing seasons for scallops in Registration Area J.**

Establish fishing season for scallops in the Southeast District of Registration Area K, as follows:

(b) In Scallop Registration Area K (Kodiak), a person may take weathervane scallops only

(1) under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner under 5 AAC 38.076(e) ; and

(2) in those waters of the Southeast District described in 5 AAC 34.405(b) Southeast District: all waters southwest of a line extending 168°, from the easternmost tip of Cape Barnabas and east of a line extending 222°, from the southernmost tip of Cape Trinity. And south of the three nautical mile line.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Kodiak area was closed to Scalloping in the early 1970's, due to concern over unknown crab bycatch amounts in the region.

Since 1993 Scallopers have been required at their own cost to carry observers 100% of the time. These observers mission is to tally all targeted catch and all discarded bycatch. This information is reported to ADF&G. Scallop fishermen with the tools of 100% observer coverage, bycatch caps and fishermen's cooperation has allowed them to fish successfully in many regions around the State. Using data from the observers, ADF&G and the Scallop Association are able to compile information on where potential crab "hot spots" are and have fishermen avoid them. Using this bycatch observer monitoring system, at great cost to scallop fishermen, has been an excellent tool to keep Scallopers below ADF&G set bycatch crab limits.

Scallopers used to fish here in the 60's and early 70's. Since then ADF&G surveys and NOAA race Groundfish surveys continue to record seeing Weathervane scallops in this district. Now that we have proven tools to keep our bycatch responsible and manageable, we would like to see SE Kodiak re-opened to Scallop fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Scallop Association

(HQ-F17-024)

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**PROPOSAL 211**

**5 AAC 38.420. Fishing seasons for scallops in Registration Area J.**

Reduce closed waters for scallops in the Southwest District of Registration Area K, as follows:

(b) In Scallop Registration Area K (Kodiak), a person may take weathervane scallops only

(1) under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner under 5 AAC 38.076(e) ; and

(2) in those waters of the Southwest District described in 5 AAC 34.405(c) that are south of a line from Cape Ikolik at 57° 17.40' N. lat., 154° 47.40' W. long. to the Alaska Peninsula (near Kilokak Rocks) at 57° 10.34' N. lat., 156° 20.22' W. long., and ~~west of 155° 00.00' W. long.,~~ northwest of a line from 56° 07.00' N. lat., 154° 37.00' W. long. to Low Point at 57° 00' N. lat., 154° 31.50' W. long. and north of 56° 07.00' N. lat. and east of 156° 20.22' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In March 2009 the Board of Fish re-opened a limited area in SW Kodiak to scallop fishing. Since 2009 this has been a good scallop fishing area, including right up to the existing eastern border at 155° 00' W. long. This proposal intends to extend this fishing area further to the northeast where known scallop beds are. From about 56° 54' N lat., 155° 00' to Bumble Bay on Kodiak.

Since 1993 Scallopers have been required at their own cost to carry observers 100% of the time. These observers mission is to tally all targeted catch and all discarded bycatch. This information is reported to ADF&G. Scallop fishermen with the tools of 100% observer coverage, bycatch caps and fishermen's cooperation has allowed them to fish successfully in many regions around the State. Using data from the observers, ADF&G and the Scallop Association are able to compile information on where potential crab "hot spots" are and have fishermen avoid them. Using this bycatch observer monitoring system, at great cost to scallop fishermen, has been an excellent tool to keep Scallopers below ADF&G set bycatch crab limits.

Scallopers used to fish here in the 60's and early 70's, until it was closed due to concern over unknown crab bycatch amounts in the region. Now that we have proven tools to keep our bycatch responsible and manageable, we would like to see this northern portion of SW Kodiak re-opened to Scallop fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-F17-025)

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**PROPOSAL 212**

**5 AAC 38.4XX. Registration Area J Sea Cucumber Management Plan and 5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in Registration Area J.**

Establish sea cucumber management plan in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J, as follows:

**5 AAC 38.4XX. Kodiak District Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (a) This management plan governs the harvest of sea cucumbers in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J.**

**(b) Before harvesting sea cucumbers, a person shall:**

**(1) obtain a valid CFEC interim use permit to harvest sea cucumbers with diving gear;**

**(2) validly register with the department.**

**(c) Sea cucumbers may be taken from October 1 through April 30 during fishing periods established by emergency order.**

**(d) Sea cucumbers may only be taken with diving gear operated in accordance with 5 AAC 38.054.**

(f) In the Kodiak District, a person harvesting sea cucumbers shall maintain an accurate logbook of all diving operations.

(1) A logbook described in (f) of this section must

(A) include the date, the specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude, the number of individual sea cucumbers harvested, the number of pounds of sea cucumbers harvested, the minimum and maximum depth of each dive, the bottom time duration of each dive, and any other information deemed reasonable by the department;

(B) be delivered to a local representative of the department within 48 hours following the closure of a fishing period unless the permit holder has been delayed due to extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, and the permit holder has contacted a local representative of the department within 48 hours following the closure of a fishing period and the representative has granted additional time.

(2) A person may not make a false entry in the logbook described in (f) of this section.

(g) Opening of a sea cucumber fishing period will be delayed for 24 hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast for Shelikof Strait (PKZ138) or for Shuyak Island to Sitkinak Island (PKZ132) issued at 4:00 a.m. on the day before the scheduled opening date contains gale warnings for that day. If, after the initial delay, the following day's 4:00 a.m. forecast contains a gale warning for that day, the fishing period will be delayed for an additional 24 hours. The period opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until gale warnings are not forecasted.

(h) Notwithstanding (g) of this section

(1) if a fishing period is not scheduled for the Westside Section of Kodiak District, gale warnings for Shelikof Strait (PKZ138) will not delay the fishing period;  
or

(2) if fishing periods are not scheduled for the Eastside or Southeast sections of Kodiak District, gale warnings for Shuyak Island to Sitkinak Island (PKZ132) will not delay the fishing period.

**5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in the Chignik, South Peninsula, Eastern Aleutian, Western Aleutian, and Bering Sea districts of Registration Area J. In the Chignik, South Peninsula, Eastern Aleutian, Western Aleutian, and Bering Sea districts of Registration Area J, a person may take sea cucumbers only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner under 5 AAC 38.062 and only from October 1 through April 30 during fishing periods established by emergency order, except that in the Chignik District, a person may take sea**

cucumbers only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner and only from September 15 through April 30 during fishing periods established by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Sea cucumber fisheries in Registration Area J are prosecuted under guidelines established by the department in a commissioner permit. Commissioner permits are largely used to guide exploratory and developing fisheries. Since 1993, participation in the Kodiak District sea cucumber fishery has been relatively steady, and in recent years the fishery is becoming increasingly competitive.

The proposed management plan for the Kodiak District will summarize and consolidate current management tools and regulations, and allow fishery stakeholders better opportunity to address Kodiak District specific management measures such as weather delay provisions or harvest allocations. Exploratory sea cucumber fisheries in the remainder of Registration Area J will continue to be prosecuted under the authority of a commissioner permit.

In past years fishery participants have organized informal, voluntary weather delays to address concerns about safely traveling to the fishing grounds during inclement weather. Formalizing a weather delay provision in regulation would clarify the weather delay procedure for both fishery participants and fishery managers.

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

(HQ-F17-093)

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