

Proposal #235**'Support as Amended :'**

'5 AAC 32.110 Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A. In Registration Area A, legal size male Dungeness Crab may be taken or possessed only as follows:

1) From 8:00am June 15 through 11:59pm August 15 and from 8:00am October 1 through 11:59 November 30.

5 AAC 32.146 Southeast Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan.

Size, Sex and Season shall be the Management Plan. Area A. Seasons are to be fixed as described in **5 AAC 32.110.**

Only male Dungeness Crab as described in **5 AAC 32.055** May be retained and sold.'

Comments: Size Sex and Season (the three S's) is the Norm up and down the West Coast. It has & will protect the stocks as the Dept. of Fish and Game has always told fisherman it would. In some west coast US areas fishing occurs year round and the stocks have done well. Simple 'SSS' is enough.

Our problem is not our harvest methods and means. **THE PROBLEM** is Predation on all sizes and genders of Crab, and the compression of the fleet from loss of area to predation. We ask the Board of Fish to please address it. We are prepared at this meeting to offer real solutions to the Board and would welcome discussing the predation problem with you.

Thank You,

Michael Lockabey, et al listed below.

| <u>Permit Holder , Ph. #</u> | <u>F/V</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Michael T. Lockabey 907-305-0422 | F/V Chelsea L |
| Ronald C. Johnson 907-617-5087 | F/V Pacific Nomad |
| Brad Sobjack 360-220-3783 | F/V Determined |
| Michael J. Lockabey 907-305-0622 | F/V Miss Tammy, F/V Rita |
| Frank Warfel 907-305-0776 | F/V Pacific Sea |
| Karen J. Lockabey 907-305-0522 | F/V Michael J |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Steve Gile 907-660-7484 | F/V Defiant |
| Mike Neilsen 360-319-4532 | F/V Downtime |
| John Powell 907-660-7484 | F/V Seduction Point |
| Chad Ritche 907-305-0399 | F/V Hanna J |
| Rick Groshong 907-305-0703 | F/V Panga |
| Rob Tucker 360-590-1639 | F/V Valiant |
| Chris McMurren 928-380-3129 | F/V Nina Fay |
| Mike Bunes No # | F/V Desparado |
| James Rowland 907-874-4090 | F/V Alaskan Eagle |
| Mark Tucker 360-590-1639 | F/V Voyager |
| Tom Wickman 907-305-0433 | F/V |
| Terry Rowland 907-874-4089 | F/V Boomerang |
| Paul McEntyer 907-305-0470 | F/V Sea Hunt |
| Heidi Rowland 907-874-4090 | F/V Alaskan Eagle |

PROPOSAL 235

5 AAC 32.146. Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan and 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A.

Repeal the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan and adopt fixed-length summer and fall fishing seasons, as follows:

5 AAC 32.110. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A. In Registration Area A, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only as follows:

(1) from 8:00 a.m. June 15 through 11:59 p.m. August 15 and from 8:00 a.m. October 1 through 11 :59 p.m. November 30 [, IN ALL WATERS OF REGISTRATION AREA A OTHER THAN THOSE WATERS SPECIFIED IN (2) AND (3) OF THIS SECTION;

(2) FROM 8:00 A.M. OCTOBER 1 THROUGH 11:59 P.M. NOVEMBER 30, IN THE WATERS OF

(A) SECTION 13-B THAT ARE IN THE SITKA SOUND SPECIAL USE AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 32.150(10);

(B) WHALE PASSAGE NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE EXTENDING FROM 56° 05.65' N. LAT., 133° 07.30' W. LONG. TO 56° 05.85' N. LAT., 133° 06.40' W. LONG.; (3) FROM 8:00 A.M. OCTOBER 1 THROUGH 11:59 P.M. FEBRUARY 28, IN (A) DISTRICT 1; (B) DISTRICT 2; AND (C) SECTION 13-B, EXCEPT THE WATERS OF SITKA SOUND SPECIAL USE AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 32.150(10)].

[5 AAC 32.146. SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA AREA DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN. IN THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE STOCK ASSESSMENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY IN REGISTRATION AREA A (SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA) USING A PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH. WHEN STOCKS ARE ASSESSED TO BE LOW, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, SUBJECT TO THE COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY UNDER 5 AAC 32.035, REDUCE THE HARVEST OF LEGAL DUNGENESS CRAB AND REDUCE THE HANDLING OF NONLEGAL, LIGHT, AND SOFT-SHELL DUNGENESS CRAB BY COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(1) NO LATER THAN 14 DAYS AFTER THE START OF THE SUMMER DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 32.110, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROJECTION OF HARVEST THRESHOLDS FOR THE SEASON;

(2) IF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS THAT THE ENTIRE SEASON'S CATCH OF LEGAL DUNGENESS CRAB WILL BE

(A) 1.5 MILLION POUNDS OR LESS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CLOSE THE SUMMER DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON NO SOONER THAN 21 DAYS AFTER THE SEASON OPENED, AND THE FALL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 32.110 WILL NOT OPEN;

(B) MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION POUNDS, BUT LESS THAN 2.25 MILLION POUNDS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CLOSE THE SUMMER DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON NO SOONER THAN 28 DAYS AFTER THE SEASON OPENED, AND THE FALL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON WILL BE OPEN FOR 30 DAYS;

(C) MORE THAN 2.25 MILLION POUNDS, THE SUMMER AND FALL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASONS WILL OCCUR AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 32.110; (3) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT HARVEST PROJECTIONS FAIL TO MEET THE THRESHOLD FOR A SEASON AS DESCRIBED IN (2)(C) OF THIS SECTION DUE TO SOFT-SHELLED CRABS EARLY IN THE SUMMER DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON, THE DEPARTMENT MAY OPEN THE FALL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 32.110.

(3) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT HARVEST PROJECTIONS FAIL TO MEET THE THRESHOLD FOR A SEASON AS DESCRIBED IN (2)(C) OF THIS SECTION DUE TO SOFT-SHELLED CRABS EARLY IN THE SUMMER DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON, THE DEPARTMENT MAY OPEN THE FALL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING SEASON AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 32.110.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan* (plan) specifies a modified size, sex, and season (3-S) management approach for the Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness crab fishery. Under the plan season length is determined by projecting total season harvest using effort and harvest from the first two weeks of the season as fishery performance indices. Projected total season harvest is compared to regulatory harvest thresholds and season length is set at one of three lengths specified in the plan. The plan went into effect in 2000 and regulatory harvest thresholds were adopted based on harvest levels observed on the late 1990s. Increased Dungeness crab depredation by sea otters since adoption of the plan has changed areas fished and harvest patterns and current regulatory harvest thresholds may no longer be appropriate. The Southeastern Alaska Dungeness crab fishery is the largest Dungeness crab fishery in Alaska and the only one conducted under a regulatory management plan rather than a simple 3-S approach. This proposal would establish a fixed season length equivalent to the current maximum season length allowed in the plan similar to the 3-S approach used in other Alaska Dungeness crab fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

Proposal #54 - Opposed

Comments: We are opposed to any reduction in pots, It would be a short term action and have no effect on nor solution to the problems. If we start down a gear reduction road it will not stop under current circumstances.

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