Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board Chair Jensen.

January 12, 2018

Substitute regulatory language for Proposal 235: Repeals Southeastern Alaska Area Dungeness Crab Fisheries Management Plan and maintains fishing Dungeness crab fishing seasons as currently described in 5 AAC 32.110.

[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.]