

**PROPOSAL 245**

**5 AAC 34.210. Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.**

Create commissioner's permits for any king crab fishery in Area E closed for five years, as follows:

Any king crab fishery in Area E which has not been prosecuted for a period of 5 years shall be eligible for a commissioner's permit fishery developed in partnership with Area E stakeholders.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercial king crab fishing has been closed in Area E for over 30 years. The ADF&G has failed in its obligations to follow its statewide Tanner and King Crab Management Policy. This has resulted in severe economic stress in the fishing community of Cordova and other communities around Prince William Sound. Department Policy mandates managing for the highest socio-economic benefit when such action does not conflict with biological constraints. The Department has never addressed the socio-economic impacts of its management decisions, nor has it demonstrated any legitimate biological constraints which would preclude enacting a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Smith & Warren Chappell

(EF-F19-064)

\*\*\*\*\*