

Prince William Sound Area Commercial King Crab (2 proposals)

PROPOSAL 244

5 AAC 34.210. Fishing seasons for Registration Area E.

Allow a commercial king crab fishery in the Northern and Western Districts of Prince William Sound, as follows:

Instruct ADF&G to develop a harvest strategy that incorporates commercial CPUE as main survey method (This how brown crab is managed in SE Alaska), and open waters of the Northern district and Western district, west of W.147.20 under a Commissioner's permit for a directed fishery to help supply commercial CPUE data to the department for the development of a harvest strategy. This fishery would have a major economic impact for fishermen in local PWS communities. At \$16 a pound to processors, it doesn't take much of a sustainably managed harvest to make a big difference for local fishermen trying to diversify their income.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Golden King Crab fishery in area E has been closed for over thirty years. ADF&G has not conducted a survey to assess stocks since 2006. In thirty years, ADF&G has not developed a harvest strategy and is not currently working on one. Fishermen participating in the PWS Tanner Crab fishery are reporting extremely high levels of King Crab abundance (over 80 crab in some pots), yet are not able to retain any under the current commissioner's permit.

PROPOSED BY: Cordova District Fishermen United, Shellfish Division (EF-F19-058)

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)
