

PROPOSAL 190

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan and 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Amend the Red King Crab Management Plan to include trip limits and equal share quotas when harvestable surplus is below threshold, as follows:

5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan

(c) Until January 24, 2027, the department shall open the fishery as an equal permit share if the department's estimate of the available harvestable surplus is below 200,000 pounds of legal male red king crab. The department shall determine the annual amount of king crab equal quota share by dividing the GHL by the number of CFEC permits and interim use permits eligible to be fished in the fishery. When the threshold of 200,000 pounds is met or exceeded, the traditional fishery shall be prosecuted.

(1) When the harvestable surplus is above 88,500 and below 99,999 pounds of legal male red king crab, vessels will be subject to a 1,500 pound trip limit and no more than 3 days of fishing per trip to allow management to close areas as the regional GHLs are reached.

(2) When the harvestable surplus is between 100,000 and 199,999 pounds of legal male red king crab, vessels will be subject to a 2,000 pound trip limit and no more than 5 days of fishing per trip to allow management to close areas as the regional GHLs are reached.

(3) Permit holders will be required to pre-register before each trip for the area and dates they plan to fish.

(4) Permit holders will be required to call in daily to report their catch.

(5) All pots must be removed from the water at the end of a trip.

(6) Permit holders must wait one week between landings and the start of their next trip.

5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A

(b) The following king crab pot limits are in effect in Registration Area A:

(1) During the commercial red king crab season, the maximum number of king crab pots that may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab is as follows:

(A) No more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is [200,000 BUT] not more than 399,999 pounds;

(B) no more than 30 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 400,000 but not more than 499,999 pounds;

(C) no more than 40 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 500,000 but not more than 599,999 pounds;

(D) no more than 50 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is 600,000 pounds or more;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are looking for a way to prosecute a red king crab fishery at an economic threshold lower than 200,000 pounds of legal red king crab. This minimum threshold has not been addressed in several years, while the red king crab market price has increased. The minimum threshold was first set at 300,000 pounds in 1988 and later lowered to 200,000 in 2002 by the request of the industry and processors in response to the rising value of red king crab. According to ADF&G fishery ex-vessel prices, since 2000, the statewide average price of red king crab has increased from \$4.74 a pound to \$9.27 in 2018. We set this regulation to sunset before the start of the 2027/2028 season to allow this fishery management plan change a trial period of two board cycles. We mirrored the Chatham and Clarence sablefish equal quota share fisheries and realize that not all eligible permits will register to fish or land their full quota shares.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owner’s Association and Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (HQ-F20-073)

**The author of this proposal was incorrectly listed as the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in an earlier version.*
