

PROPOSAL 205

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters in Coffman Cove to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

5 AAC 32.150(#) waters Coffman Cove north and west of a line extending from a point at 56°05.806'N lat., 133°06.520'W long, to a point located at 56°05.616'N lat., 133°07.333'W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Coffman Cove have commercial Dungeness crab fisherman adjacent to their community. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet has seen an increased in sea otters in other areas of Southeast Alaska and very low numbers of Dungeness crab in those areas. During commercial Dungeness crab season, some commercial Dungeness crab fishermen insist that they shall fish directly adjacent to Coffman Cove and in direct competition with the residents of Coffman Cove. Coffman Cove is a small community with mostly seasonal employment. A small area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Coffman Cove subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living on Prince of Wales Island. At the same time, with the high non-resident summer tourist population in Coffman Cove, a separate proposal has been submitted to close an area to sport fishing for Dungeness crab. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet would not be impacted by this small closed fishing area.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-086)
