

PROPOSAL 207

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters in Whale Pass to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

5 AAC 32.150(#) waters of Whale Pass 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 Whale Pass have commercial Dungeness crab fishermen directly in front of their homes during the fall Dungeness crab season as permitted under 5 AAC 32.110(2)(B). 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 the fall and winter months some commercial Dungeness crab fishermen insist that they shall fish directly in Whale Pass and in direct competition with the residents of Whale Pass. Whale Pass is a small community with very few jobs and amenities. A small increase to the area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially year round will continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by Whale Pass subsistence fisherman to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. At the same time, with the high summer population of tourists in Whale Pass, a separate proposal has been submitted to close the same area to sport fishing for Dungeness crab. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet would not be impacted by this small area closed fishing area.

If this proposal is enacted, 5 AAC 32.110(2)(B) could be repealed.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F20-080)
