

SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT SHELLFISH PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Amend the regulation to close shellfish sport fisheries as follows:

Shellfish harvesting is closed to sport.

ISSUE: Mitigate impacts to local Alaskans and the resource from over crowding in productive shellfish areas by non-residents, localized depletion of all shellfish species, shellfish gear conflicts, particularly protected inside waters. Preserve locals access to popular shellfish areas especially May - September.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident Alaskans access will continue to diminish, continued gear conflicts and resource concerns.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Addresses harvesting is closed to sport.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident Alaskans and the resource. Enforcement would be able to spend their limited resources enforcing other species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-residents would not be able to harvest shellfish. I don't believe that anybody would actually "suffer", but the long-term benefits to locals, Alaskans and the resource would be realized.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered the broader Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Farvour (HQ-08F-238)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____
ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____
DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 47.036 and 75.035. Prohibitions and Sport fishing gear for shell fish. Amend the regulation to close sport shellfishing in Sitka area and restrict charter vessel use May 15-Sept. 15 as follows:

Shellfishing in the Sitka area, as defined on Pg. 17 in the 2008 Southeast Alaska sport fishing regs. is closed to sport. Registered charter vessels may not be used to deploy, set or retrieve any shellfish gear from May 15 to Sept 15.

ISSUE: Local resident Alaskans access to commonly used shellfish areas are being impaired by non-residents and the guided charter fleet. Shellfish pots are left in the water for extended periods (weeks and months) by both the guided charter fleet and non-residents. Shellfish is also being aggressively pursued as a target species in the guided charter fleet. This has created a host of problems for resident Alaskans trying to access shellfish in areas that are traditionally used ranging from tensions in coastal communities abuse of shellfishing privileges, local resource concerns, etc.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Areas traditionally used for shellfishing by local Alaskan residents will continue to diminish as stated above.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will address the issue of local resource abundance.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident Alaskans.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-residents will not be able to access shellfish in the Sitka area. Registered charter vessels will not be used to access shellfish in the Sitka area during the charter season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Zach LaPerriere

(HQ-08F-244)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions - Shellfish.
Amend this regulation to prohibit gas or electric powered winches or pullers in sport shellfish fishery as follows:

Add an additional regulation:

Gas or electric powered winches or pullers, including retrieving systems that make use of the boat's engine may not be used to pull sport shellfish rings or pots.

ISSUE: "Sport" shellfish harvest as currently practiced is indistinguishable from personal use / subsistence harvest aside from different bag limits and seasons in certain areas. This permits some sport fishermen to harvest with high efficiency, resulting in complete sport shellfish season and area closures when harvest is too great.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Non-resident fishermen who truly want a sport shell-fishing experience will be denied the opportunity due to being lumped in with non-residents who are using subsistence / personal use practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-resident anglers who are willing to hand-pull shellfish gear will be viewed as more deserving of a share of the resources than when grouped with "sport" shell-fishing using subsistence gear. The aggregate harvest will be smaller, allowing these limited fisheries to remain open in places where they would otherwise be closed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-residents who want to harvest large quantities of shellfish in the easiest manner possible.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continue to restrict non-resident shell fishing opportunities as has been done in the past.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka (HQ-08F-159)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 47.xxx. New section. Define specifications of pots allowable for use in sport fishery as follows:

A crab pot may not be used in the sport fishery that has tunnel eye openings more than five inches in height. A top loading crab pot is not legal gear for non-residents.

ISSUE: To define a king crab pot that is illegal for a sport fishermen to use. King crab is not a legal species for sport fishermen to retain. By providing pot specifications for a legal pot able to harvest tanner and Dungeness crab you will reduce the likelihood of king crab being retained by non-residents as there will be less likely that they will catch a king crab. Right now non-resident sport fishermen intentionally use a pot that will provide an opportunity to catch a king crab while claiming to be tanner crab fishing. We are suggesting as our solution that a crab pot may not have a tunnel eye opening more than 5 inches in height. We developed that recommendation by looking at the commercial regulations for tanner crab pots being used in areas where the king crab fishery is closed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Southeast king crab stocks are currently depressed in several areas according to the ADF&G surveys used for determining the biomass. This will help prevent the illegal taking of king crab in the sport fishery by removing the temptation. This should also help enforcement be able to deal with the issue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The king crab resource, personal use and subsistence users of the resource along with hopefully rebuilding the stocks to a level that will allow a commercial fishery again.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those sport fishermen who retain king crab even when it is illegal to have them because they were in their pot.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-08F-277)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Amend the regulation to develop a sport fish bag limit for all species not already specified as follows:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

...

(17) other saltwater finfish and shellfish species not specified in this section, may be taken from January 1 – December 31; **2 fish bag limit, 1 daily bag limit in possession and no annual limits** [NO BAG, POSSESSION, ANNUAL OR SIZE LIMITS].

(18) Herring; may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag limit of one five-gallon bucket of herring may be in possession; one daily bag limit in possession; no annual limits.

ISSUE: Developing a sport fish bag limit for all species unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 47.020. There is currently no sportfish bag limit on many species of fish. These species weren't considered as a sport fish species. There is a trend to start and target some of these species because charter operators can offer unlimited bag limits to their clients. Some of these species are already fully utilized and all of these species will not end up in any type of harvest documentation. As some species are very fragile, (slow growing) there should at least be a bag limit. This will provide some protection to the resource. In enacting this regulation, the Board of Fish will need to establish a bag limit for herring as a two fish bag limit would be unreasonable for this species.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some species are already fully utilized and allocated and unregulated, unaccounted harvest by the sport fisheries is creating resource issues. One such example of this is Chatham blackcod fishery is in a decline and reduced harvest limits on the commercial sector has not been benefiting the resource as would be expected until a significant sport fishery is factored into the equation. Many of the species that fall in this category are long living, slow growing species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Reasonable bag limits on species benefits the resource; the managers of the resource; and current users of fully utilized resources will not face an unlimited increasing competition for the resource;

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Charter operators using the lack of bag limits to entice clients.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Developing a proposal for every species but were concerned we would miss a species.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-08F-272)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Amend the regulation to develop a sport fish bag limit for all species not already specified as follows:

5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

...

(17) other saltwater finfish and shellfish species not specified in this section, may be taken from January 1 – December 31; **2 fish bag limit, 1 daily bag limit in possession and no annual limits** [NO BAG, POSSESSION, ANNUAL OR SIZE LIMITS].

(18) Herring; may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag limit of one five-gallon bucket of herring may be in possession; one daily bag limit in possession; no annual limits.

ISSUE: Developing a sport fish bag limit for all species unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 47.020. There is currently no sportfish bag limit on many species of fish. These species weren't considered as a sport fish species. There is a trend to start and target some of these species because charter operators can offer unlimited bag limits to their clients. Some of these species are already fully utilized and all of these species will not end up in any type of harvest documentation. As some species are very fragile, (slow growing) there should at least be a bag limit. This will provide some protection to the resource. In enacting this regulation, the Board of Fish will need to establish a bag limit for herring as a two fish bag limit would be unreasonable for this species.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some species are already fully utilized and allocated and unregulated, unaccounted harvest by the sport fisheries is creating resource issues. One such example of this is Chatham blackcod fishery is in a decline and reduced harvest limits on the commercial sector has not been benefiting the resource as would be expected until a significant sport fishery is factored into the equation. Many of the species that fall in this category are long living, slow growing species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Reasonable bag limits on species benefits the resource; the managers of the resource; and current users of fully utilized resources will not face an unlimited increasing competition for the resource;

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Charter operators using the lack of bag limits to entice clients.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Developing a proposal for every species but were concerned we would miss a species.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

(HQ-08F-272)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 47.020(16). General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Amend the regulation to lower sport bag limit for shrimp as follows:

5 AAC 47.020

(16) Shrimp; may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit of **3 pounds or 3 quarts** [10 POUNDS OR 10 QUARTS]; no annual limit;

ISSUE: Lower bag limits for sport use spot and coonstripe shrimp. Areas which are heavily utilized by sport fishery are blamed on the commercial fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional pressure on fully allocated stocks. Non-residents do not need more than enough for a meal or to have a meal at home. Alaska does not have to provide non-residents a freezer full of fish and shellfish to share with friends and family and see to neighbors to pay for their trip to Alaska.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen and local residents utilizing personal use and subsistence resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-resident sport fishermen will receive a limit that is adequate for a meal or two and not the ability to fill their freezer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance

(HQ-08F-279)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 140 - 5AAC 31.143. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SHRIMP CATCHER-PROCESSOR AND CATCHER-SELLER VESSELS IN REGISTRATION AREA A. Amend these regulations as follows:

5AAC 31.143. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SHRIMP [CATCHER-PROCESSOR AND CATCHER-SELLER] VESSELS IN REGISTRATION AREA A.

(a) **Unless otherwise notified by the department,** the [VESSEL] owner or operator of a [CATCHER-PROCESSOR] **shrimp pot** vessel [REGISTERED TO TAKE SHRIMP] **operating** in Registration Area A shall **contact by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurred or is occurring within 48 hours of beginning and ending fishing** [REPORT TO A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 72 HOURS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF A FISHING PERIOD] in any district or portion of a district **with a guideline harvest level (GHL)** the following information:

- (1) the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the fishing period in any district or portion of a district **with a GHL**;
- (2) other information requested by the department for the purpose of conserving or developing shrimp resources.

(b) The reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:

(1) unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department, each week the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel operating in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone **or in person,** the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurs, before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact: ...

(E) other information requested by the department for the conservation and development of the shrimp resources.

(2) The owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-seller vessel operating in the waters of Registration Area A may be required to contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing occurs, each week before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact: ...

(A, B, C and D) (Note: A,B,C, and D are the same requirements as for (b)(1)).

(E) other information requested by the department for the conservation and development of the shrimp resources.

(b)(3) each week an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel operating in Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone **or in person,** the ADF&G area

office in Petersburg before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; ...

(c) the fish ticket requirements for commercial pot shrimp and beam trawl vessels in Registration Area A are as follows:

(1) an owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel shall complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district **or portion of a district with a GHL** [AND EACH STATISTICAL AREA] in which shrimp are harvested and processed on board the vessel; fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of closure of a district or portion of a district **with a GHL**; [FOR WHICH A DISTINCT GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL EXISTS] a shrimp pot catcher-processor **who** [VESSEL THAT] has stopped fishing in a district or portion of a district **with a GHL** [FOR WHICH A DISTINCT GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL EXISTS] shall contact, by telephone **or in person**, the local ADF&G area office and report the information specified in this paragraph before fishing in a new district or portion of a **district with a GHL** [SECTION];

(2) an owner or operator of a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor vessel shall complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district and **portion of a district with a GHL** [EACH STATISTICAL AREA] in which shrimp are harvested and processed on board the vessel; fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of closure of a district or portion of a **district with a GHL** [SECTION FOR WHICH A DISTINCT GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL EXISTS]; a shrimp beam trawl catcher-processor **who** [VESSEL THAT] has stopped fishing in a district or portion of a **district with a GHL** [SECTION FOR WHICH A DISTINCT GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL EXISTS] shall contact, by telephone, the local ADF&G area office in Petersburg and report the information specified in this paragraph before fishing in a new district or **portion of a district with a GHL** [SECTION];

...

(e) For purposes of this section

(1) “catcher-processor” [VESSEL] means **a commercial fisherman who catches and sells or attempts to sell processed or unprocessed shrimp** [A VESSEL FROM WHICH SHRIMP ARE CAUGHT AND PROCESSED ON BOARD THAT VESSEL] and from which no shrimp caught on other vessels was purchased or processed;

(2) “catcher-seller” [VESSEL] means **a commercial fisherman who sells or attempts to sell** [A VESSEL FROM WHICH SHRIMP ARE CAUGHT IF THERE IS ANY ATTEMPT TO SELL] unprocessed shrimp [TAKEN BY THE VESSEL] to a person not licensed to process shrimp.

ISSUE: The proposed revision of this regulation contains some housekeeping measures. The term “district or portion of a district with a distinct guideline harvest level (GHL)” is used throughout for consistency and to reduce potential confusion. References to reporting by vessels is replaced by references to persons who would report, and the corresponding definitions have been revised. Finally, reporting can be accomplished in person as well as by telephone.

This proposal would provide substantial revisions in reporting requirements so the department can manage the fishery to limit harvests to levels within established GHGs. Current regulations require pot shrimp catcher-processors to report harvests to the department within 72 hours following the closure of a district and to report specific harvest information on a weekly basis by noon on Wednesdays. Call-ins by fishermen to department managers have proven to be a practical way to get inseason harvest information in a timely manner. However, due to changes in the shrimp market many shrimp fishermen no longer operate as catcher-processors and therefore are not required to report to the department. Current reporting is insufficient. Without timely and accurate information on harvest and effort levels for specific areas department fishery managers may either close fisheries after GHGs have been exceeded or close fisheries well before GHGs have been taken. Harvests above the GHG could be harmful to the resource and affect the sustainability of the fishery; harvests below the GHG implies either that fishermen can not maximize their harvest potential, or if fisheries are later re-opened to harvest the remainder of the GHG, then the costs of re-deployment can be substantial.

5AAC 31.143 (a) is changed to require the owners or operators of all shrimp pot fishermen to contact the department within 48 hours of starting or stopping fishing within a district with a distinct GHG. With this change, department managers will more accurately know inseason effort levels in the fishery. The department can waive this information for certain fishing areas where that information is available, or where fisheries are managed from the grounds. All fishermen would be included under this provision, and would notify both when they start fishing as well as when they stop fishing in an area.

5AAC 31.143 (b) (1) maintains current weekly call-in requirements for pot shrimp catcher-processors. Weekly harvest information has allowed the department to closely monitor fishery progress toward meeting GHGs. Added is a provision that would give the department greater latitude in specifying what kind of information should be provided at the time of each call-in. Over the past few years the department has been working in cooperation with the Pot Shrimp Task Force and has developed a voluntary logbook program to collect size-specific catch data which has the potential to be of great value in monitoring the status of shrimp populations, especially in areas where the department has little or no biological sampling data.

5AAC 31.143 (b) (2) is a new section that provides the department the option to require pot shrimp catcher-sellers to report weekly the same information that catcher-processors are now required to report. If implemented the department would have sufficient inseason information to close areas when the GHGs are reached. Without this information there will likely be large information gaps in areas where many catcher-sellers are operating. Some catcher-sellers do not provide fish tickets to the department until 7 days after a landing has been made so the department would not know that catch for 1-2 weeks after fishing. Catcher-sellers who sell to licensed shore-based processors and would not be required to report. If the department has good information on effort levels and sufficient weekly call-ins, then the department would like the option to not require weekly reporting by catcher-sellers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be continued difficulty managing shrimp fisheries in some areas due to the lack of catch information.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The department will be better able to reach the target GHLS allowing the commercial shrimp industry uninterrupted fisheries. Pot shrimp fishers will have more consistent GHLS due to the potential reductions of over harvesting GHLS.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Shrimp fishermen will have an added requirement to contact the department.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-08F-308)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A. Amend pot limit in Southeast Alaska spot shrimp fishery to 100 pots no larger than 48 inches as follows:

Max pot limited in Southeast Alaska Spot Shrimp fisheries at 100 pots no larger than 48”.

ISSUE: Unfair advantage between small pot limit and large pot limit in Southeast Alaska Spot Shrimp fisheries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More cost to fishermen that are trying to stay competitive in the fisheries.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen who don't have to buy a limit of 39 ½ inch pots to stay competitive. Enforcement would benefit too because 100 pots per vessel is easier to regulate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that are already fishing 140 small pots will be cut back to a limit of 100 pots.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alan Reeves

(HQ-08F-020)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A. Amend shrimp pot size limit to 140 36-inch small pots or 100 48-inch large pots as follows:

Return to the original board decision of **140 36 inch small pots or the 100 48-inch pots.**

ISSUE: At the 1997 Board of Fisheries meeting the board chose to use pot numbers and size as a tool to slow Southeast AK spot shrimp fisheries down. The Board passed 140 small pots of 36 inches in size or 100 large pot of 48 inches as a final decision. When the wording got transferred into the books the small pot size grew to 39 1/2 inches. This I feel changed the Boards true intent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The decision was 140 36 inch pots. By raising the size to 39 1/2 inches it changed the competitive edge to 140 pots rather than 100 4-foot pots. 140 pots covers more ground per day or holds more ground. This in only 10 pots less than the original 50 pot limit. I don't feel this was the board's true intent.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In 1997 the Board of Fisheries made some drastic cuts in this fisheries. I lost 100 6 foot pots because they were too efficient. I would like to know when the Board makes tough decisions that your exact intentions or wording get transferred into the law books. People who rely on this process will benefit. Fishermen who don't have to buy a limit of 39 1/2 inch small pots to stay competitive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen who have bought the 39 1/2 inch pots to stay competitive, and fisherman who have pots larger than 36 inches could only fish 100 pots total.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alan Reeves

(HQ-08F-024)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 31.116(c). Shrimp beam trawl guideline harvest ranges and bycatch limits for Registration Area A. Eliminate the 10 percent trip bycatch limit on coonstripe shrimp for beam trawlers and replace with a harvest level in pounds for each area or bay as follows:

5 AAC 31.116. Shrimp beam trawl guideline harvest ranges and bycatch limits for Registration Area A.

(c) In the district specified in (b) of this section, a beam trawl permit holder must retain, weigh, and report all spot and coonstripe shrimp that are less than 60 count per pound, based on the whole weight of the shrimp. Except in District 11, the permit holder must weigh and report as bycatch overage in an ADF&G fish ticket all spot [AND COONSTRIPE] shrimp less than 60 count per pound and in excess of 10 percent whole weight of all targeted shrimp species on board the vessel. A permit holder shall surrender to the state the proceeds from the sale of spot [AND COONSTRIPE] shrimp that are less than 60 count per pound and that exceed the 10 percent bycatch level.

ISSUE: Eliminate the 10% trip bycatch limit on coonstripe shrimp for beam trawlers. Replace with a harvest level in pounds for each area or bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1) Pot fishermen target spot shrimp that are worth more dollar wise. When spot shrimp quotas are caught areas are closed, hence no effort and very limited harvest on coonstripe shrimp.

2) Due to the mixture of coonstripe and sidestripe shrimp in some bays as Pybus, Gambier, Farragut, and Thomas, the 10% trip bycatch limit stops beam trawlers from successfully fishing in those areas. As a result the coonstripe shrimp are never harvested.

3) Since closures of beam trawl shrimp processors, like NorQuest Seafood's shrimp line in Petersburg, the pink shrimp fishery has been eliminated. This has hurt the beam trawlers, putting many out of business. Repealing the 10% trip bycatch limit on coonstripe shrimp would sure help the few beam trawlers that are left to eke out a livelihood.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It's good for the fishery to harvest coonstripe shrimp in areas where they are plentiful.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The few beam trawlers left in the fishery that are trying to eke out a livelihood.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Dennis Sperl

(HQ-08F-162)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 31.136. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial shrimp fishery within 1-mile radius around Sukoi Island as follows:

Close commercial fishing for a one mile radius around Sukoi Islands to shrimp fishing.

ISSUE: Shrimp fishing around Sukoi Islands

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is overfished by subsistence, commercial, and sport fishing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Less pressure on the shrimp fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial fishing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell

(HQ-08F-022)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 32.xxx and 34.xxx and 35.xxx. New sections. Amend the regulation to specify crab measurement devices and allow for broken spines as follows:

Crab measures used for enforcement purposes will be made out of a material impervious to changing weather conditions such as aluminum or steel that is certified by weight and measures twice a year. If the crab would definitely be legal if the broken spine was intact the crag will be considered legal.

ISSUE: Develop a set of guidelines for ADF&G samplers and enforcement must use for measurement of crab (tanner, king crab and Dungeness) where an enforcement action is being taken. I.E. the measurer must be made of a material that is impervious to the weather such as aluminum or steel that is certified by weights and measures, crab must be measured live and not frozen, what is the policy regarding broken spines (they break at times when entering the hold).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status quo. It is unclear to fishermen what the policy is regarding broken spines on crab and fishermen are busted with the use of plastic measures in freezing weather that is not accurate.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Enforcement and commercial fishermen by clarifying the rules.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one – intention is to provide a fair playing field and clarify the rules.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (HQ-08F-267)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 34.xxx and 35.xxx. New sections. Amend the regulation to allow a 2 percent tolerance for mistakes made in sorting crab as follows:

A 2 percent tolerance is allowed for mistakes made in the sorting of crab as long as the crab are alive and can be returned to the water unharmed.

ISSUE: These use to be an unofficial policy that allowed for small tolerance of undersized tanner and king crab to be onboard if returned to the water live. We would like to develop a policy that allows for up to 2% overage if returned to the water as an acceptable legal tolerance range. Small crag at times are hanging on the back legs of crab and are not noticed as the crab are being sorted and end up in the hold. In addition, both the crew member and captain should be held responsible for undersized crab.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fishermen get busted for unintentional acts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? n/a

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen – better understanding.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance

(HQ-08F-266)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 47.020 (11)(A) General provisions for seasons, bag possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify description for measuring legal size of Dungeness crab as follows:

The sport regulation pamphlet has an excellent diagram of how to measure Dungeness crab; however, the legally binding regulation is unclear. If Troopers were to contact someone in the field with Dungeness crab, taken under sport regulations, that were legal in their measurement including the spines and illegal with a “shoulder width” measurement, we might be issuing an inappropriate citation. This problem could be fixed by changing one word in 5 AAC 47.020(11)(A), “carapace” to “shoulder”. This would incorporate the current well defined definition of “shoulder width” into the sport regulation and make Dungeness crab measuring universal throughout statute and regulation.

ISSUE: This is a house keeping issue needed to better define legal measurement of Dungeness crab. The sport regulation, 5 AAC 47.020(11)(A), states that Dungeness crab must be six and one-half inches or greater in carapace width. Carapace width is not defined in statute or regulation. The three remaining areas, personal use, subsistence, and commercial all use the term shoulder width. Shoulder width is well defined in 5 AAC 32.055(b); shoulder width measurement of Dungeness Crab shall be the straight-line distance across the carapace immediately anterior to the tenth anterolateral spine and shall not include the spines.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion between sport, personal use, and subsistence regulation definitions for measurement of Dungeness crab.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will make it clear to sport recourse users how crab are to be measured.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All resource users participating in the Dungeness crab fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers (HQ-08F-189)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A. Amend the regulation to change season dates for Dungeness crab fishery as follows:

In registration Area A, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only as follows:

[(1) IN DISTRICTS 1 AND 2, AND IN SECITON 13-B, EXCEPT THE WATERS OF SITKA SOUND SPECIAL USE AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 32.150(10), FROM 12:00 NOON OCTOBER 1 THROUGH 11:59 P.M. FEBRUARY 28;

(2) IN THE WATERS OF SECTION 13-B THAT ARE IN THE SITKA SOUND SPECIAL USE AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 32.150(10), FROM 12:00 NOON OCTOBER 1 THROUGH 11:59 P.M. NOVEMBER 30;

(3) IN ALL OTHER WATERS OF REGISTRAITON AREA A, FROM 12:00 NOON JUNE 15 THROUGH 11:59 P.M. AUGUST 15 AND FROM 12:00 NOON OCTORBER 1 THROUGH 11:59 P.M. NOVEMBER 30.]

July 1 through November 1

ISSUE: Change the Dungeness crab season. Now, we have a split season. 2 month in the summer and 2 months in the fall. The first 2 weeks of the season always has a log of “market light/soft shell” crab. The last month of the season in November has a lot of females with open egg clutches. Instead of fishing 4 months early and late, we should state July 1 and fish until November 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If we keep fishing in June, we will continue to handle a lot of market light/soft shell crab. Continuing to fish in November when the crab have exposed egg clutches could harm the productivity of the Dungeness crab stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, we will not have a preponderance of soft crab, and the females with open egg clutches won’t be harmed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1) The Southeast Dungeness crab resource. 2) The permit holders value of the crab should be improved as we won’t be trying to market “light” crab.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, we would still have 4 month to fish and the summer months would still be open to the smaller skiffs that fish the summer months.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Dick Gregg

(HQ-08F-280)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A. Match the season description of Districts 1 and 2 with all other waters of Registration Area A as follows:

“in Districts 1, and 2, and” would be removed from 5 AAC 32.110(1)

ISSUE: To match the season description of Districts 1 and 2 with all other waters of Registration Area A as described in 5 AAC 32.110(3).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The fleet will remain concentrated. The resource will continue to be under harvested due to weather and market conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Reduces pressure on the resource in other open areas. Crabs would be harvested during more favorable market conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The crab fleet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan M. Littleton

(HQ-08F-113)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A. Match seasons of Districts 1 and 2 with all other waters of Area A in Dungeness crab fishery as follows:

“in Districts 1, and 2, and” would be removed from 5 AAC 32.110 (1)

ISSUE: To match the season description of Districts 1 and 2 with all other waters of Registration Area A as described in 5 AAC 32.110 (3).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The fleet will remain concentrated. The resource will continue to be under harvested due to weather and market conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Reduces pressure on the resource in other open areas. Crabs would be harvested during more favorable market conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The crab fleet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Littleton

(SC-08F-048)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 32.146. SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (REGISTRATION AREA A) DUNGENESS CRAB MANAGEMENT PLAN. Amend this regulation as follows:

In the absence of adequate stock assessment, the department shall manage the Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A (Southeastern Alaska) using a precautionary approach. When stocks are assessed to be low, the department shall, subject to the commissioner's authority under 5 AAC 32.035, reduce the harvest of legal Dungeness crab and reduce the handling of non-legal [AND LIGHT OR SOFT-SHELL] Dungeness crab by complying with the following:

(3) if the department determines that harvest projections fail to meet the threshold for a full season as outlined in (2)(C) of this subsection due to soft-shelled crabs early in the summer Dungeness crab fishing season, the department may open the fall Dungeness crab fishing season as specified in 5 AAC 32.110;

ISSUE: The current Dungeness crab Management Plan shortens the summer fishing season and closes or shortens the fall fishing season when harvest projections, based on landings during the first week of the summer fishery, predict a total catch of less than 2.25 million pounds. In some years, a high incidence of non-retained soft-shelled crabs occurs during the early part of the summer season. This amendment would allow the department to open the fall fishing season in years when the predicted harvest falls below threshold due to soft-shelled crab.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The fall fishery will be shortened or closed when catch is predicted to be arbitrarily low due to a high incidence of non-retained soft-shelled crab early in the season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, crab will be harvested in the fall when they are in the hard-shell condition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen participating in this fishery could benefit as could processors who purchase these crab with higher meat fill in the fall.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-08F-311)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE



FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Amend this regulation to require all permit holders to be onboard vessel when multiple permits are used in Dungeness crab fishery as follows:

5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A

(g) In addition to the requirements in (d) and (a) fo this section, when more than one permit holder is fishing from a single vessel all permit holders must be onboard the vessel when the vessel is used to fish for Dungeness crab.

ISSUE: The permit stacking provision in the regulation for the Registration Area A Dungeness fishery is unenforceable. Make it mandatory for all permit holders to be onboard the vessel when operating gear and in possession of Dungeness crab.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The permit stacking provision in the regulation for the Dungeness fishery in Registration Area A will continue to be unenforceable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Permit holders that haul only their legal limit of gear. Alaska Wildlife Troopers who enforce the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Permit holders that haul more than their legal limit of gear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan M. Littleton and Ralph A. Strickland (HQ-08F-134)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Amend the regulation to prohibit use of two permits in Dungeness crab fishery as follows:

(a) In Area A, no more than 300 Dungeness crab pots may be used by a vessel to take Dungeness crab.

(b) In Area A, when Dungeness crab or Dungeness crab gear are on board, or when deploying, setting, or retrieving Dungeness crab gear, a validly registered Dungeness crab fishing vessel may not have on the vessel, in the water in fishing condition, and in the water in nonfishing condition, more than a total of the lesser of

(1) [300 DUNGENESS CRAB POTS]; or

(2) the maximum number of Dungeness crab pots allowable under **the limited entry or interim use permit** [THE INTERIM USE OR LIMITED ENTRY PERMITS] of the CFEC permit holder[S] that [ARE] **is** listed on the vessel registration and [ARE] **is** on board the vessel.

(c) In Area A, no person may longline pots to take Dungeness crab; each pot in operation must be individually buoyed and marked.

(d) In Area A, all Dungeness crab pots and ring nets operated by a CFEC limited entry or interim use permit holder must be identically buoyed and marked. At least one buoy on each Dungeness crab pot or ring net must be legibly marked with the permanent ADF&G vessel license plate number of the Dungeness crab vessel operating the gear. The buoy, or multiple buoys attached to a Dungeness crab pot or ring net, may not bear more than one vessel license number. The vessel license number must be in symbols at least one and one-half inches high and at least one-quarter inch wide in color that contrasts with the background of the buoy.

[(e) IN AREA A, IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENT IN (D) OF THE SECTION, WHEN MORE THAN ONE PERMIT HOLDER IS FISHING FROM A SINGLE VESSEL, AT LEAST ONE BUOY OR TAB ATTACHED TO A BUOY ON EACH POT OR RING NET MUST BE LEGIBLY MARKED WITH THE LAST FIVE NUMERIC DIGITS OF THE PERMIT HOLDER'S CFEC LIMITED ENTRY OR INTERIM USE PERMIT NUMBER. THE BUOY, MULTIPLE BUOYS, OR TAGS ATTACHED TO A DUNGENESS POT OR RING NET MAY BEAR THE DIGITS FROM ONLY ONE CFEC LIMITED ENTRY OR INTERIM USE PERMIT.]

ISSUE: Stacking of Dungeness pot permits. A vessel should not be allowed to register and fish more than one Dungeness crab permit and the vessel is limited to the number of pots for that one permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The multiple stacking of Dungeness permits to a maximum of 300 is “unenforceable.” There is an abuse of the current system by allowing fishermen to fish more than one permit on board. Many times the second permit holder is not on board or additional pots are fished marked as if there are two permit holders. In addition, the regulation is unfair to the 300 pot permit holders as their level of effort is frozen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1) The resource as there would be less effort. 2) Enforcement would not have to deal with the “stacking” provisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some of the commercial fishermen who if they want to increase their effort level would be forced to sell their smaller permits and purchase a larger permit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Dick Gregg

(HQ-08F-282)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions - Shellfish.
Amend the regulation to apply Dungeness crab commercial closed areas to sport fishery to provide for resident personal use fishing as follows:

Close all waters for Dungeness crag fishing in Registration A to sport fishing that are closed for commercial Dungeness crab fishing. This will keep Dungeness fishing available in these closed areas to stay open for personal use allowing the closures around towns to be for the Alaskan residents of that town.

ISSUE: Large geographical areas near cities, towns and villages being closed to local Alaska residents to the commercial harvest of crab to provide for local personal use needs. Nearly every board cycle for the past 16 years has addressed more of these proposals and they were growing in size. While providing areas for resident areas for resident personal use, these closed areas have expanded beyond local needs and expanded to support non-residents. Local commercial fishermen should not have to bear this reallocation burden. A similar proposal was adopted last cycle for shrimp but the Dungeness crab proposal did not pass due to absences and a member conflicted out of the discussion.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Closures around towns do not benefit the local residents that the closures were intended for. These special set aside areas in proximity to local communities will continue to expand due to overfishing from non-resident sport fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All resident personal use fishermen who are being crowded out of traditional areas by sport fishermen. Also, commercial fishermen who see traditional areas in close proximity to local markets threatened by expanding area closures.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-resident sport fishermen would not be allowed to Dungeness crab in areas closed to commercial Dungeness crab fishing but would be able to fish year-round in all areas of Southeast Alaska that opens up for commercial Dungeness crab fishing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

(HQ-08F-274)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE



FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 32.150(11). Closed waters in Registration Area A. Amend the regulation to open commercial Dungeness crab fishing during fall season in Twelve-mile Arm closed area as follows:

(11) **from December 1 through September 30**, waters of Twelve-mile Arm west of a line from Prince of Wales Island at 55° 29.07' N. Lat., 132° 37.60' W. Long., to the northeasternmost tip of Loy Island at 55° 29.07' N. lat 132° 36.70' W. long., to the easternmost tip of Cat Island at 55° 27.80 N, lat., 132° 39.08' W. long., to Prince of Wales Island at 55° 27.80' lat., 132° 40.93' W. long., including waters nearest Hollis Anchorage;

ISSUE: Open commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the fall season in the Whales pass closure area. The conflict with summertime residents of the Whales Pass area does not occur in the fall fishery, as by then the summertime residents with small skiffs have left the area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of commercial opportunity in area that was productive in the past.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? n/a

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial Dungeness crab fishermen will have access at least in the fall fishery to an area that we use to be able to fish. Conflicts with the summer users that use small skiffs are sill minimized with this solution as the summer residents of Whale Bay are gone by the fall season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some crab fishermen will feel that the fall opening will harm their crabbing in the following summer season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-08F-270)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

Note, the board received two nearly identical proposals on this topic from two different authors. The proposals were combined into a single proposal and presented here.

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 32.150(16). Closed waters in Registration Area A. Amend the regulation to repeal closure of Chaik Bay to commercial Dungeness crab fishing as follows:

Repeal [5 AAC 32.150 (16) WATERS OF CHAIK BAY EAST OF A LINE FORM THE TIP OF THE PENINSULA ON THE NORTH AT 57° 19.38' N. LAT., 134° 28.91' W. LONG TO 57° 19.11' N LAT., 134° 28.90' W.LONG]

ISSUE: Repeal the closure of Chaik Bay to commercial Dungeness crab fishermen. The intent of passage of this proposal that we supported was to provide an area for Angoon residents to harvest Dungeness crab. What has happened is that the main use of this area is not Angoon residents but the nearby charter lodge and their clients.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A very productive area for the commercial fleet will remain closed to us for the benefit of an equivalent commercial user of the resource in the form of a lodge and charter clients.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial fishermen will be able to use an area that they previously had access to.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The lodges and their clients that are the only ones using the area other than a few transient people.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Closing the area to sport fishermen and leaving it open for personal use only. Since many of the workers of the lodge are Alaskan residents they would just put their name on the pot continuing to defeat the purpose of the regulation to provide an area for the Angoon residents only.

PROPOSED BY: Pete Roddy; and by Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance
(HQ-08F-104), (HQ-08F-268)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Closed waters near Coffman Cove to commercial Dungeness crab fishing during summer months as follows:

From June 1 – September 1 the waters of Coffman Cove, Lake Bay and Barns Lake are closed to Commercial Dungeness Crab fishing. Waters North and West of a line extending from Coffman Point 56°01'00.37"N lat., 132°48'36.21"W long. To Coffman Island 56°01'48.06"N lat., 132°50'49.31"W to Stevenson Island 56°03'19.90"N lat 132°55'39.40"W long to the line west of Stevenson Island 56°02'21.45"N lat., 132°57'51.14"W long to Prince of Wales Island Indian Creed 56°02'21.77"N lat., 132°58'51.14"W long.

ISSUE: Open waters in Registration Area A for commercial Dungeness crab fishing near the community of Coffman Cove, Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The community of Coffman Cove and surrounding residence will remain unable to subsistence fish and catch any legal size Dungeness crab.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes it will slow the harvest level of Dungeness crab in this area for the summer months and would produce a better harvest for commercial harvest in the fall season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both the community of Coffman Cove and the commercial Dungeness crab fisherman.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Bryce R. Bucker (HQ-08F-015)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing from the north end Wrangell Narrows to Mountain Point for five years as follows:

Close the Dungeness crab for commercial fishing from north end of Wrangell Narrow WN Buoy to Mountain Point for at least five years.

ISSUE: Dungeness crabbing in Wrangell Narrows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overfishing and loss of resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Saving resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Petersburg.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial fishing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Steve Burrell

(HQ-08F-021)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A. Close Naukati Bay to commercial crab fishing as follows:

Crab trapping by commercial fishermen would not be allowed within Naukati Bay.

ISSUE: Commercial crab trapping in subject bay has depleted the Dungeness Crab resource beyond reason.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only the small crabs and females will be left.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by giving the male crabs a chance to mature.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The entire community of Naukati.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? One crabber would need to go elsewhere.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Appeal to the public news media. 2) Appeal to the governors office. 3) Appeal to the federal authorities.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Wilkinson (HQ-08F-033)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 47.020(11). General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area. Amend the regulation to lower sport bag limit for Dungeness and tanner crab as follows:

(11) Dungeness and tanner crab, in combination: may be taken from January 1 – December 31; bag and possession limit of [FIVE] **three** crab, no annual limit; only male crab may be taken; size limits, as follows:

- (a) Dungeness crab must be six and one-half inches or greater in carapace width.
- (b) Tanner crab: must be five and one-half inches or greater in carapace width;

ISSUE: Lower the bag limits for sport use of Dungeness and tanner crab. Areas which are heavily utilized by the sport fishery are blamed on the commercial fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional pressure on fully allocated stocks. Non-residents do not need more than enough for a meal or to have a meal at home. Alaska does not have to provide non-residents a freezer full of fish and shellfish to share with friends and family and sell to neighbors to pay for their trip to Alaska.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance (HQ-08F-278)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 75.085(2). Guided sport ecotourism requirements. Amend the regulation to allow ecotourism clients to handle gear or fish under direct supervision of registered guide as follows:

For a paying client on board a vessel engaged in guided sport ecotourism fishing may handle gear and fish only if that person is under the direct supervision of a person holding a valid fishing guide license registered for the fishery.

ISSUE: Current regulations do not meet the needs of ecotourists and ecotour operators in Southeast Alaska. Current regulations require that anyone handling gear hold a valid fishing license, regardless of whether or not they intend to harvest anything. Allowing ecotourists on our tours to be able to handle the gear associated with crabbing, handle the crab, and participate in the release of the crab would enhance their experience without adding unnecessary cost to the experience.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Ecotourists would either have to purchase a valid Alaska Fishing License or experience the tour through watching a licensed guide or deckhand perform the task of retrieving the pot and releasing the catch.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since much of Alaska’s economy is now supported by tourist revenue, this provision would genuinely enhance an ecotourist’s experience. Regardless of who it is that handles the gear and releases the catch, ecotourism in and of itself is designed to promote and achieves resource sustainability.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ecotour operators and ecotourists will benefit by the adoption of this provision. In our experience, the time and money required to license our customers takes away from their tour experience, hence a very small percentage of our ecotourists purchase a fishing license and are unable to participate in any “hands on” activities associated with the tour.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The State of Alaska may collect fewer dollars in fish license revenue as some ecotourists likely already purchase a valid license for the opportunity to have a more “hands on” experience.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We have considered having all of our customers purchase fishing licenses. However, the amount of time to license everyone and the logistics of managing some ecotourists who have licenses and others who do not has been problematic.

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Shaughnessy (HQ-08F-222)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 47.090. George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery. Amend the regulation to allow for fewer pots and lifts when if additional vessels register for George Inlet guided sport Dungeness fishery as follows:

The Commissioner may reduce the number of allowable pots or number of allowable lifts, or both, if more than 3 vessels register for the George Inlet exclusive guided sport Dungeness fishery and a biological basis for the reductions is substantiated.

ISSUE: Currently, the Commissioner is required to reduce the number or allowable pots and lifts if more than three vessels register for the George Inlet exclusive area. Although not likely, the current provision would allow another company to register boats, even if they did not intend to fish them, in order to cause damage to our current operation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Under current regulations, the Commissioner has no latitude to evaluate the situation based on need and the proposals of Experience Alaska Tours and other potential users of the George Inlet exclusive area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would neither harm or improve the quality of the resource, provided biological data was used to support the Commissioner’s decision.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ecotour operators and ecotourists in the George Inlet exclusive area will benefit by the adoption of this provision. With they way that current regulations are written, Experience Alaska Tours would be a significant beneficiary as harm under the current regulations would only be directed at us.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Provided strong scientific data was used to show that there was no biological reason fro reducing the umber of pots and lifts, no one and no species would suffer by the adoption of this regulation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Since this provision is written to allow competition to use the same resource that we are currently using and we don’t have any current competition, this provision is not problematic at this time. We are making this proposal based on the current regulation’s ability to significantly impact our business if it should be carried out.

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Shaughnessy (HQ-08F-221)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 47.090. George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery. Amend the regulation on pot use in George Inlet guided sport Dungeness fishery as follows:

No more than three pots per vessel may be used and each pot not lifted more than four times per day; if lifted more than three times it must be removed from the water on the fourth lifting and not returned to the water until the next calendar day.

ISSUE: Currently, boats in the George Inlet exclusive area are only allowed to set two pots and make three lifts on each pot per day. We would like the ability to set additional pots or make additional lifts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Ecotourists pay substantially for the opportunity to view wildlife and participate in nature-friendly ecotours. Having the ability to set additional pots and/or make additional lifts on the current pots will allow us to expose additional clients to the Alaskan outdoors and compensate for breakdowns in a vessel, and more economically utilize our boat fleet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would improve access to the particular species for ecotourists looking to take advantage of the crab tour.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ecotour operators and ecotourists in the George Inlet exclusive area will benefit by the adoption of this provision.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some biologists argue that additional handling will lead to additional mortality. Since this is a catch and release fishery and mortality would still be substantially less than would be experienced if the crab were retained, despite the additional handling.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The alternate solution to this problem is to continue to limit the number of ecotours and ecotourists having access to the tour. We would obviously like to be able to take full advantage of our facility, our equipment, and the economic benefit during the short summer months.

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Shaughnessy

(HQ-08F-223)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 02.108. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of shellfish stocks. Recognize customary and traditional use of king crab in the Hoonah Area as follows:

Recognize king crab as a Subsistence Food.

ISSUE: Our people have lived here in this area for approximately ten thousand years and to think they overlooked King Crab as a food borders on insulting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The people of Hoonah would be denied the right to harvest king crab as a subsistence food. The people who are harvesting them now, it would decriminalize them.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The majority of Hoonah subsistence users would benefit from this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Icy Straits Advisory Committee (HQ-08F-099)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 01.716. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses; and 77.XXX. New section. Open Port Frederick to subsistence and personal use for king crab as follows:

Open Port Frederick to subsistence and personal use for king crab.

ISSUE: Port Frederick has been closed to king crab harvesting for seven years. When it was closed there were no steps, such as closing it to commercial use first then personal use, and then assessing what the fishery was doing. There was a complete closure to all use. Contrary to the accepted rules set forth by the people making the rules.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Puts a question mark on the procedures of the Department when they do not follow their own rules. People who do harvest subsistence and personal use king crab are currently breaking the law.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, because there is opportunity for harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The people of the area would benefit from the addition of the crab to their diets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There would not be any adverse effects, as the number of harvesters would not be great.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There are no other options for users in smaller vessels.

PROPOSED BY: Icy Straits Advisory Committee (HQ-08F-098)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 02.108(a). Customary and traditional uses of shellfish stocks.
Amend the regulation to establish a customary and traditional use finding for red king crab in Section 6-A, District 8, and portion of District 10 as follows:

5 AAC 02.108(a). Customary and traditional uses of shellfish stocks

The Alaska Board of Fisheries finds that the following shellfish stocks are customary and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

(5) Shellfish, except king and tanner crab in the waters of District[S] 7 [AND 8].

(6) shellfish, except Tanner crab in District 8.

(7) king crab in the waters of Section 6-A east of the line from McNamara Point to Mitchell Point, including Wrangell Narrows.

(8) king crab in the portion of District 10 south of a line from Bay Point to Boulder Point.

ISSUE: Establish a customary and traditional use finding (C&T) for red king crab in waters of Section 6-A, east of a line from McNamara Point to Mitchell Point, District 8, and that portion of District 10 south of a line from Bay Point to Boulder Point. Local residents of Petersburg have a long-standing history of harvesting red king crab in these waters for subsistence use.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The long-standing C&T use of the red king crab resource these waters by Petersburg residents will not be acknowledged.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, the quality of the resource harvested or the products produced will be unaffected by this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Establishing a C&T finding for red crab in the waters of Section 6-A, east of a line from McNamara Point to Mitchell Point, District 8, and that portion of District 10 south of a line from Bay Point to Boulder Point would acknowledge the long-standing customary and traditional use of red crab in these waters by Petersburg residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. This proposal simply recognizes the traditional use of red king crab in this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. This fails to recognize that long-standing customary and traditional subsistence harvest of red king crab in these waters by Petersburg residents.

PROPOSED BY: Brent Akers

(HQ-08F-254)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 02.108. Subsistence king crab fishery. Designate king crab in area 13B and 13C as a subsistence resource as follows:

Designate king crab in 13B and 13C as a subsistence resource and/or close 13B and 13C to commercial harvest of king crab.

ISSUE: Reduced king crab stocks in 13B and 13C have resulted in no opportunity for local resident to harvest due to emergency closures.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local use of king crab stocks will keep crashing after each commercial opening.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. There will be more crab available for harvest by local subsistence users this will improve harvest success.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The commercial fisheries, but there is usually less than three commercial fishers that harvest king crab in this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Robert J. Hartmen

(HQ-08F- 017)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crag fishery; and 5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery. Amend this regulation to allow subsistence and personal use fishing for red and blue king crab in Peril Straits and allow for reduced bag limit as needed for conservation as follows:

Subsistence and Personal Use fishing for red and blue king crab in Peril Straits shall be allowed as provided for under 5 AAC 02.120 (Subsistence) and 5 AAC 77.664 (Personal Use). If the department makes the determination that the stock can not support the harvest that would be expected given the standard 6 crab per person per day bag limit, the department shall consider reducing the daily bag limit before consideration is given to closing the fishery.

ISSUE: The Subsistence and Personal Use fisheries for Red (and blue) King Crab in Peril Strait are often closed by emergency order when the biomass is deemed insufficient to support a commercial fishery, even if the stocks are abundant enough to support a smaller non-commercial fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People who wish to harvest king crab from Peril Strait will continue to be unsure whether or not the season has been recently closed. Also, they will be legally prevented from even limited king crab harvest during much of the year due to emergency orders.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal addressing increasing the opportunity to harvest king crab by changing the current “feast or famine” situation to a more uniform and predictable season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Personal Use and Subsistence fishermen who frequent the Peril Strait region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A slightly increased personal use and subsistence harvest may mean somewhat fewer years when the biomass is large enough for a commercial fishery. The increase in non-commercial harvest is likely to be considerably smaller than the commercial harvest though, so this may not be significant.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

(HQ-08F-156)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 77.666. PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB FISHERY, 5 AAC 47.035. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS – SHELLFISH. Amend these regulations as follows:

5 AAC 77.666. PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB FISHERY.

(1) **Tanner crab may be taken only from July 1 through June 15** [THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON];

5 AAC 47.035. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS – SHELLFISH.

(n) **Tanner crab may be taken only from July 1 through June 15.**

ISSUE: Personal use fisheries for red and blue king crab open by regulation on July 1 unless otherwise closed by emergency order. Since there is no closed season for the Tanner crab personal use fishery or Tanner crab sport fishery, existing regulations allow users to effectively prospect for red king crab before the season starts which makes enforcement of the opening day difficult. Closing the Tanner crab personal use and Tanner crab sport seasons from June 16 through June 30 would reduce the likelihood of prospecting for or storing red king crab prior to the season opening and facilitate enforcement. Such a closure would also provide the Tanner crab resource some protection during the sensitive molting and mating period.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Prospecting of red and blue king crab under the pretext of Tanner crab fishing will continue. Possible increased mortality of sublegal male and female red and blue king crabs and Tanner crabs during the molting and mating season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, Tanner crab will be harvested after molting and unnecessary mortality will be avoided.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Department of Public Safety officials will better be able to enforce crab fishery regulations. The Tanner crab resource will benefit from a seasonal closure.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-08-F-315)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery. Amend the regulation to close sport and personal use tanner crab fishery prior to start of personal use red and blue king crab fishery as follows:

The sport and personal use tanner crab fishery is closed 12:01 a.m. June 23 through 11:59 p.m. June 30.

ISSUE: To close the sport and personal use tanner crab fishery prior to the start of the personal use red and blue king crab fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Enforcement will have trouble preventing pots being put out prior to the season by stating that it is a tanner pot and having fishermen stockpile king crab. This allows for a fair start for all personal use crab fishermen. This solution has worked successfully in the commercial fishery to provide fair starts for the fisheries, to prevent stockpiling and prospecting for crab.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen that like a fair playing field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those fishermen that were taking advantage of being allowed to have tanner crab pots in the water.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Also closing Dungeness sport and personal use crab fishing. We rejected this idea as a legal king crab won't fit into a Dungeness pot and this is a time of the season when a log of sport Dungeness fishing takes place. Legal king crab and legal Dungeness crab will generally not be found in the same area. Making the tanner season the same as the king crab season but some residents do tanner crab fish all year for personal use in other parts of Southeast where red king crab is not abundant.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

(HQ-08F-273)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 77.664 (b) (1). Personal use king crab fishery. Start personal use king crab season in Hoonah Sound July 1 as follows:

Go back to traditional king crab opening start time of July 1.

ISSUE: The residents of Sitka have been unable to fish king crab in Hoonah Sound in the summer (a safe time) for about 10 years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The resident of Sitka will not be able to fish king crab safely in Hoonah Sound.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would allow the resident of Sitka to fish king crab in reasonable safety.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The residents of Sitka.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jon M. Shennett

(HQ-08F-077)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 77.614. PERSONAL USE KING CRAB FISHERY.

Amend this regulation as follows:

5 AAC 77.614. PERSONAL USE KING CRAB FISHERY.

(1) **red and blue king crab may not be taken from April 1 through June 30** [THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON];

ISSUE: Current regulations in 5 AAC 02.120 provides for a seasonal closure for the subsistence king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat but there is not a similar closure for the Yakutat area personal use king crab fishery. The department considers this a housekeeping proposal to align seasonal closures for the red and blue king crab subsistence and personal use fisheries in Yakutat.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary confusion between the subsistence and personal use red and blue king crab fisheries in Yakutat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users will benefit from clear and consistent seasonal regulations for these fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-08F-313)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 34.111(b)(4) Section 11-A Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan. Change allocation of red and blue king crab to personal use fishery in Section 11 as follows:

Delete section (b)(4) of 5 AAC 34.111 Section 11-A Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan.

b) When managing red and blue king crab in Section 11-A, the board authorizes the department to conduct the personal use and commercial fisheries according to the following allocation plan:

(1) personal use fishery from July 1 through September 30 (summer season) - 50 percent of the red king crab guideline harvest level;

(2) personal use fishery from October 1 through March 31 (winter season) - 10 percent of the red king crab guideline harvest level;

(3) commercial fishery - 40 percent of the red king crab guideline harvest level when the general season is open under 5 AAC 34.110;

[(4) THE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGES FOR THE PERSONAL USE FISHERY UNDER THIS SUBSECTION WILL INCREASE PROPORTIONALLY IF THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL SEASON IS CLOSED UNDER 5 AAC 34.113(C) AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE FOR THE SUMMER SEASON UNDER (1) OF THE SUBSECTION WILL INCREASE TO 80 PERCENT; AND

(B) THE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE FOR THE WINTER SEASON UNDER (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION WILL INCREASE 20 PERCENT.]

ISSUE: Amend the Section 11-A Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan by deleting section (b)(4) that increases the personal use summer and winter seasons if there is not commercial season. A strong healthy population in District 11 is an important component in order to reach the biomass levels necessary in order to conduct a commercial red king crab fishery. By allowing the un-harvested commercial crab component of the stock to stay in the water, it should help the rebuilding process or maintaining a healthy population, particularly when the stocks are slightly depressed. ADF&G was concerned enough about the District 11 stocks that they closed the 2007 summer season early.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will take longer to rebuild a healthy population in District 11. When discussing the commercial fishery with fishermen, ADF&G has stated several times that the importance of maintaining multiple year classes and that the crab will be there for later but this is not true if they are immediately allocated to another user when we are closed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Mainly the resource and eventually the commercial fishermen should benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The personal use fishermen might suffer but they suffer more if we don't maintain a healthy resource in this area. Most personal use fishermen in Juneau are not even aware that this roll over of crab to their sector when a commercial fishery is not opened.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

(HQ-08F-186)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 34.111. Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan. Restrict commercial crab fishing in Section 11-A to rebuild stocks as follows:

Amend 5AAC 34.111(a) by deleting the last sentence ...[THE BOARD ALSO FINDS THAT THE COMMERCIAL USE OF RED AND BLUE CRAB IN SECTION 11-A IS HISTORIC, ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT, AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.]

Amend part (b) to read, ...The board authorizes the department to conduct the personal use [AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES] according to the following....

Amend (b)(1) to read,....(summer season) 90 [80] percent of the red king crab....

Amend by deleting sections (3) and (4).

ISSUE: We request the Board reserve all king crab in the Section 11-A for the personal use fishery. The crab resource is not adequate to allow both commercial and personal use fishery for red king crab in this area. Both the commercial and personal use seasons have been closed due to depletion of the king crab stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercial fishermen have large boats and the ability to crab in many places outside of Section 11-A. Most personal use crabbers have small boats and are limited to crabbing in Section 11-A. The personal use fishery has grown as more and more people participate. If the commercial fishery is allowed to continue it will result in repeated closures and limited re-openings as the stocks are depleted to levels that require closure of the personal use fishery as well as the commercial harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Personal use crabbers will be able to continue crabbing in Section 11-A once the stock rebuilds and the season is opened. The boom or bust approach to king salmon management in the area will cease which should result in continued and consistent annual openings for the personal use fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial fishermen will have to focus on other areas outside of Section 11-A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.

(HQ-08F-089)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 34.111. District 15 Tanner Crab Management Plan. Amend the regulation to specify a seven day long red and blue king crab season in Registration Area A as follows:

Add a new regulation that the Registration Area A red and blue king crag season is 7 days long.

ISSUE: Providing a stable season length for the red king crab fishery. What the fishermen see on the grounds during the fishery does not match the data that Fish and Game is using to evaluate the population. The fishermen do not believe that the surveys that ADF&G uses are an accurate way to determine the exploitable biomass. Under a 7 days season, the fishermen are less pressured to pick their pots daily or more and this allowed the escape rings to do their job.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increase the loss of economic opportunity and increase the instability of the red king crab season. Management of the crab fishery by size, sex and season worked for many years and was sustainable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The crab fishermen will have a clear idea of the regulations, size, sex and season management in the past did not harm the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There would not be a difference to any other user groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Gregg

(HQ-08F-170)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 77.664. PERSONAL USE KING CRAB FISHERY. Amend this regulation as follows:

5 AAC 77.664. PERSONAL USE KING CRAB FISHERY

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, in the personal use taking of king crab,

(1) the daily bag and possession limit is six male crab per person, **unless conservation concerns in any portion of the region warrant a complete closure of that portion of the region. When the region wide harvestable biomass of mature red and blue king crab is below 200,000 pounds the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce the bag and possession limits of red and blue king crab;**

(2) [IN WATERS EAST OF THE LONGITUDE OF CAPE SPENCER (136° 39.50' W. LONG.),

(A)] red and blue king crab may be taken only from July 1 through March 31 and [THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON FOR] golden king crab **may be taken only from July 1 through June 15;**

[(B)] **(3)** only male red and golden king crab seven inches and male blue king crab six and one-half inches or larger in width of shell may be taken or possessed;

[(3) IN WATERS WEST OF CAPE SPENCER (136° 39.50' W. LONG.), THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON;]

(4) notwithstanding 5 AAC 77.010(i) , no more than four pots per vessel may be used to take king crab.

(b) In the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as sections 12-B, 15-B, AND 15-C in the personal use taking of king crab,

(1) [RED AND BLUE KING CRAB MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JULY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, AND THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON FOR GOLDEN KING CRAB

(2)] the daily bag and possession limits are three male crab per person, **unless conservation concerns warrant a complete closure.**

[(3) ONLY MALE RED AND GOLDEN KING CRAB SEVEN INCHES OR LARGER IN WIDTH OF SHELL AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER IN WIDTH OF SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(4) NOTWITHSTANDING 5 AAC 77.010(I) , NO MORE THAN A MAXIMUM OF FOUR POTS PER VESSEL MAY BE USED TO TAKE KING CRAB.]

(c) In the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, in the personal use taking of king crab,

(1) [RED AND BLUE KING CRAB MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JULY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, AND THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON FOR GOLDEN KING CRAB;

(2)] the daily bag and possession limits are three male king crab per person;

[(3) ONLY MALE RED AND GOLDEN KING CRAB SEVEN INCHES OR LARGER IN WIDTH OF SHELL, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER IN WIDTH OF SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED;

(4) NOTWITHSTANDING 5 AAC 77.010(I) , NO MORE THAN FOUR POTS PER VESSEL MAY BE USED TO TAKE KING CRAB;]

[(5)] (2) red and blue king crab may be taken only under the authority of a permit issued under 5 AAC 77.015;

[(6)] (3) as provided in 5 AAC 34.111, the commissioner may close and immediately reopen, by emergency order, a personal use red and blue king crab season in which there is bag, possession, and pot limits, and a seasonal limit for king crab.

(d) Male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab that have been taken must be immediately returned unharmed to the sea.

(e) A person may not utilize a live holding facility to accumulate or pool multiple bag limits.

(f) Beginning July 1, 2006, a pot used to take king crab under this chapter must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot. Each escape ring must not be less than six and one-quarter inches inside diameter.

ISSUE: Current Southeast Alaska personal use king crab regulations allow for daily bag and possession limits east of Cape Spencer, outside of Sections 11-A, 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C, of six king crab per day. In 2007 a continued decline in red king crab abundance prompted the department to not open the commercial fishery and to close the personal use fishery region wide. Since there is no flexibility to lower bag limits, the department must either allow six crab per day or close the personal use fishery outside of sections 11-A, 12-B, 15-B, and 15-C when conservation concerns exist. Another aspect of this proposal is to clarify the personal use king crab regulations in District 16 which is the area between Cape Fairweather and Cape Spencer. Currently for that area there is no closed season, which is confusing and not consistent with fishing periods in adjacent waters of Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. The department recommends including District 16 in the personal use king crab fishery regulation for the rest of Southeast Alaska. The final aspect of this proposal is to provide for a two-week closure of the golden king crab personal use fishery to facilitate enforcement of existing regulations for red and blue king crab.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will not have flexibility in establishing bag and possession limits for the personal use king crab fishery during periods of reduced abundance. Confusing and contradictory regulations will remain in affect in District 16.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The king crab resource and all of its users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-08F-316)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 34.115. Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.
Amend this regulation to increase seasonal quota for golden king crab in management area as follows:

(b) In Registration Area A, the guideline harvest ranges for the taking of golden king crab in the following areas are: (1) Northern Area: 0 to **200,000 pounds**; (2) Icy Strait Area: **0 to 75,000 pounds**; (3) North Stephens Passage Area: 0 to 25,000 pounds; (4) East Central Area: **0 to 300,000 pounds**; (5) Mid-Chatham Strait Area: **0 to 200,000 pounds**; (6) Lower Chatham Strait Area:) to 50,000 pounds; (7) Southern Area: 0 to 25,000 pounds.

ISSUE: Golden king crab stocks continue to grow and there is very little room left in the guideline harvest ranges to allow seasonal quotas to increase as the stock grows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The resource will be under utilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone involved with any aspect of the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. These are only harvest ranges that allow the department more leeway to raise harvest levels if the stocks allow.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southeast King and Tanner Task Force (HQ-08F-149)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 34.114. Southeast Alaska Golden King Crab Management Plan.
Set guideline harvest ranges based on logbook information and dockside sampling as follows:

5 AAC 34.114.

c) The department shall base management on historical fishery performance, catch, and population structure information. The fishery shall be managed for a harvest to call in each areas guideline harvest range based on fishery performance to be determined by logbook information and dockside sampling.

ISSUE: By setting the annual GHJ on a three year schedule the department is not managing the resource to its potential. With the current logbook system and dockside sampling the department should be able to manage in fishery and acceptable harvest within area GHRs. The GHJ is supposed to be an estimate and not a quota the harvest should still be managed within the GHR.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to manage stocks based on GHJ set in some cases three years in advance. A harvestable surplus of crab will be left on the grounds. Opportunity to provide jobs therefore income to Vessel, crew, processor employees and processors will continue to be lost there by affecting communities as a whole.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By stating that the fishery shall be managed within the guideline harvest range managers will be able to either fully use the resource or protect it accordingly. In years of high abundance the department can manage for the best socio-economic benefit and on low abundance years can close areas early to protect stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishers Processors communities and management who would have a better regulation in place to manage the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Yancy Nelson

(HQ-08F-094)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 35.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Amend this regulation to allow king crab to be taken in a Tanner pot if both seasons are open and both permits are held as follows:

LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA A.

(a) King crab may be taken only by king crab pots, except that during the period where both king and Tanner seasons are open, a dual permit holder may retain king crab taken in a Tanner pot.

ISSUE: Tanner and golden king crab seasons open concurrently. When a dual permit holder catches a golden in a pot with tanner rings in it, it is not a legally caught crab.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Dual permit holders will be required to release crab (golden king crab) that are caught in pots with tanner rings in them. These crab are released during an open golden season by a person with a golden crab permit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Dual permit holders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southeast King and Tanner Task Force

(HQ-08F-147)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 34.1xx. New section. Prohibit square pots for taking golden king crab in Southeast Alaska as follows:

The use of square pots would be banned for the taking of golden king crab in Southeast Alaska.

ISSUE: The bycatch of halibut from the use of square pots, primarily in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab fishery. Golden king crab are found in deep waters and consequently the bycatch of high value species is high.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continuing unnecessary waste and additional localized depletion of halibut stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Over the past two years we have experienced a 46% decline in the Area 2C halibut quota. I believe that we should do everything possible to eliminate loss of halibut stock to unnecessary bycatch.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All areas of halibut fishing; commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The few fishermen still using the square pots. Many fishermen have already switched to using the cone pots for ease of transporting them; without a significant, if any, loss of production.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The required placement of excluder bars in the square pot tunnels. But that would not prevent smaller halibut bycatch.

PROPOSED BY: Steven M. Thynes (HQ-08F-048)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 35.110. Fishing season for Registration Area A. Amend this regulation modify Tanner crab management plan and reporting requirements as follows:

Male Tanner crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon on the date with the smallest Juneau tidal range between February 10 and February 17, as announced by emergency order, through May 1. **The tanner season will be a minimum of six days in the core areas. A call in program on day two will be utilized to gauge the strength of the resource. If the CPUE from day one is above (20) the season will be extended two days, above (30) extended for four days. If the CPUE is below (5) the season will close by emergency order. The core season will be followed by a five day non-core season. (Core and non-core areas described by dept. same as 07/08 season.)**

ISSUE: The tanner crab management plan in southeast is a source of constant strife and uncertainty every year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The resource will be under utilized and undervalued due to the constant uncertainty in planning for upcoming seasons.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone involved with any aspect of the fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A set 10 days or longer season is sustainable based on 30 years of fishery performance. The department opposes this; this proposal is an attempt at a compromise.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast King and Tanner Task Force (HQ-08F-145)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 35.115. Guideline harvest level for Registration Area A. Amend the regulation to specify two week long Tanner crab season in Registration Area A as follows:

The regulation would delete 5 AAC 35.115 Guideline harvest level for Registration Area A and instead add a new regulation that the Registration Area A tanner crab season is two weeks long.

ISSUE: Providing a stable season length for the tanner crab fishery. What the fishermen see on the grounds during the fishery does not match the data that Fish and Game is evaluating for a biomass assessment. The fishermen do not believe that the surveys that ADF&G uses are an accurate way to determine the exploitable biomass. The tanner fishery was successfully managed for years under the size, sex and season method of management. There were years when the fishery caught more or less crab depending upon the resource but these was always the crab necessary the following year for a successful season. Under the two week season, the fishermen were less pressured to pick their pots daily or more and this allowed the escape rings to do their job.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increase the loss of economic opportunity and increase the instability of the tanner crab season. Management of the crab fishery by size, sex and season worked for many years and was sustainable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It appeared that under a size, sex and season management that the crab were healthier with clean shells.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The tanner crab fishermen will have a clear idea of the regulations, size, sex and season management in the past did not harm the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There would not be a difference to any other user groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Gregg

(HQ-08F-169)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 35.127. TANNER CRAB GEAR STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AREA A. Amend this regulation as follows:

(2) for **five days** [72 HOURS] following the season closure for Tanner crab in any portion of Registration Area A;

ISSUE: Current regulations allow for gear storage for 72 hours. Extending the storage time to five days is consistent with gear storage in the king crab fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inconsistencies between gear storage in the Tanner fishery and king crab fishery will remain.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All fishermen who participate in the Tanner fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-08F-312)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 35.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Amend this regulation to allow 120 pots for vessels with two Tanner permits onboard as follows:

(1) No more than 80 tanner crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish tanner crab, **except that 120 pots will be allowed for a vessel with two tanner permits on board.**

ISSUE: Escalating fixed costs are causing a continuing decline in the fleet's efficiency.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Effort in the fishery will continue to decline as net profits continue to shrink. The resource will be underutilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource (longer soak times will reduce handling of non legal crab). The fleet (net profits will increase as fixed costs remain the same and there will be less gear in the water allowing better CPUE).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southeast King and Tanner Task Force (HQ-08F-146)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 35.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A. Amend this regulation to allow additional pots if two permits are held as follows:

- 1) A) No more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 200K but not more than 399,000 pounds, **except two permits may be registered to one vessel to allow 40 pots.**
- 2) When the commercial golden king crab season is open in Registration Area A, and the commercial red king crab or tanner crab season is closed, not more than 100 king crab pots may be operated from a vessel, **except when two permits are registered on vessel, 150 pots may be operated.**
- 3) When the commercial golden king and tanner crab seasons are open in registration Area A at the same time, an aggregate of no more than 80 kind and tanner crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for both kind and tanner crab **except a vessel with two dual permits registered on board may fish an aggregate of 120 pots.**

ISSUE: Escalating fixed costs are causing a continuing decline in the fleet's efficiency.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Effort in the fishery will continue to decline as net profits continue to shrink. The resource will be underutilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? With less gear in the water the king crab seasons may last longer. More of the quota will be sent out live and the total value of the fishery will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource (longer soak times will reduce handling of non legal crab). The fleet (net profits will increase as fixed costs remain the same and there will be less gear in the water allowing better CPUE).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Southeast King and Tanner Task

HQ-08F-148)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 77.666. PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB FISHERY, 5 AAC 77.616. PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB FISHERY, 5 AAC 02.125. SUBSISTENCE TANNER CRAB FISHERY, 5 AAC 47.035. METHODS, MEANS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS – SHELLFISH. Amend this regulation as follows:

5 AAC 77.666. PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB FISHERY. In the personal use taking of Tanner crab

(7) a pot used to take Tanner crab under this chapter must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot; each escape ring must not be less than four and three-quarter inches inside diameter.

5 AAC 77.616. PERSONAL USE TANNER CRAB FISHERY. In the personal use taking of Tanner crab

(3) a pot used to take Tanner crab under this chapter must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot; each escape ring must not be less than four and three-quarter inches inside diameter.

5 AAC 02.125. SUBSISTENCE TANNER CRAB FISHERY. In the subsistence taking of Tanner crab

(3) a pot used to take Tanner crab under this chapter must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot; each escape ring must not be less than four and three-quarter inches inside diameter.

5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish.

(d) Pot gear must include an escape mechanism in accordance with the following provisions:

(3) a crab pot used to take Tanner crab under this chapter must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot; each escape ring must not be less than four and three-quarter inches inside diameter.

ISSUE: Escape rings allow small crab to escape from pots, which reduces unnecessary handling of crab. Regulations currently require escape rings in all pots used in commercial, personal use, subsistence, and sport and Dungeness crab fisheries and commercial and personal use king crab in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat. However, regulations currently do not require that pots used in personal use, subsistence and sport Tanner crab fisheries have escape rings.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible increased mortality or leg-loss of sublegal male and female crabs due to over-handling.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It is likely there will be less Tanner crab leg loss and other handling deformities if escape ring requirements are added to regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Tanner crab resource and all non-commercial users will benefit from decreased handling injuries and mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-08F-314)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 38.167. Fishing season for scallops in Registration Area D. Amend opening date in Yakutat District 16 scallop fishery as follows:

5 AAC 38.167. Fishing seasons for scallops in Registration Area D. In Scallop Registration Area D, described in 5 AAC 38.076(b)(2) weathervane scallops may be taken from June 1 to February 15 unless the season is closed by emergency order.

5 AAC XX.XXX Fishing seasons for scallops in Registration District 16. In Scallop Registration District 16, described in 5 AAC 31.105(p) weathervane scallops may be taken from June 1 to February 15 unless the season is closed by emergency order.

ISSUE: To move the opening date in the Yakutat/District 16 scallop fishing areas (District D) from July 1 to June 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The later opening of July 1 forces vessels to fish in the winter harsh weather months. The large wind waves produced in the winter have a direct effect on the efficiency of scallop dredges, as a result of the CPUE goes down, the dredge hours increase, the carbon footprint is increased and the safety to the crew and vessel decreases.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? 1) The resource will be improved as we are able to fish in better weather and increase our CPUE and decrease the dredge hours spent on the bottom. 2) Scallops in this region tend to vary in marketable quality at various times of the year with no consistency from year to year. A longer open period would allow us to leave if the scallops were not in their optimum condition and return later in the season to harvest them in a better marketable condition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The safety of the scallop boats and their crews would improve as their time at sea in the more severe winter weather months would decrease. Also the vessel would spend less days at sea to catch the same quota, because of the increased CPUE. This would increase the revenue per day to the crew and vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one that we can think of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Scallop Association (HQ-08F-187)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.
Establish equal share program for geoduck fishery as follows:

All geoduck diving in Southeast Alaska will be conducted using an Equal Share program for every diver for the entire season. Prior to SARDFa making decisions about when to start the season and what the weekly target poundage will be, ADFG will require all divers wanting to participate in the upcoming season to register by a specific date prior to the season starting. This registration will be mandatory for any participation in the fishery for that season.

Prior to the season SARDFa will determine when to start diving. SARDFa will also decide the maximum amount of product to be harvested during each week of the season (weekly poundage target).

Once the season begins and a PSP testing schedule is in place, divers will register on a weekly basis with ADFG in order to be able to dive that week. Such registration will be done electronically (email) or over the phone, after the weekly PSP results are known, by a time deadline that ADFG determines appropriate.

During the weekly registration, divers will indicate to ADFG which sub area (only one area) they are signing up for and how much of their equal share they plan to harvest that week.

If a sub-area's GHl is not large enough to accommodate the number of divers that had signed up for that sub-area, ADFG will recalculate the divers' allowable harvest amount for that particular sub-area. This computation will be accomplished by taking into consideration the registrants' poundage request and the poundage available.

An in-season harvesting adjustment will be made at a pre-determined, late-season date for poundage not harvested due to slow individual harvesting rates and non-harvesting by registered divers. SARDFa would also set a target ending date, at which time harvesting for the year will cease and any un-harvested quota will remain so. This adjustment will be managed similar to the pre-season sign up. Only individuals that signed up pre-season may participate in the "remainder of the season" registration. The regular season list of registered divers will re-register with the Department by a specified date. The remaining GHl will be harvested as per the above in-season protocol.

Participants will be able to harvest, whether in the regular season or latter part of the season, all of the days of the week that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will allow (usually 3 days of diving) or a number that SARDFa deems appropriate, not to exceed DEC guidelines.

ISSUE: Currently geoduck diving is conducted in a Derby Style fishery. The one or two day a week fishery occurs without regard to quality control, marketing situations, shipping conditions or weather. Divers harvest everything they can in a short opening and hope for the best price.

Alaska provides less than 7% of the world market yet when we currently place two or three times the daily demand on the market in a single day we degrade the market for ourselves as well as others in the marketplace.

With our current “race to harvest” management style, Alaska is getting a reputation in the marketplace for poor quality product. When divers are harvesting as much and as fast as they can, their ability to control product quality is greatly diminished. With the huge harvests sometimes shipment becomes unmanageable, resulting in product losses and further degradation of markets. With our current management style it is very difficult for those divers who want to market their own product to provide a consistent supply of high quality product.

Geoducks are sold on the live market and anything that can be done to expedite their arrival at the market in the best condition possible should be of the utmost importance. Currently this is not being done.

Divers feel forced to go out in bad weather if their only opportunity to fish that week is one narrow time span of one or two days. They encounter bad weather traveling to and from the grounds and increased chances of other boats dragging into them as they work underwater, making an already hazardous occupation much more so.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska fleet will continue to harvest an unlimited and inconsistent amount of product per opening, negatively affecting the value of the entire fishery. Divers will continue to operate in a Derby-style fishery, negatively affecting safety fleet-wide. Product quality will continue to suffer and shipping limitations will continue to be an ever worsening problem. As our annual GHL continues to increase, the problems continue to compound.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Divers will have more time to harvest and care for their product. Spreading out the dispersal of product to the market would be done over a larger time frame, resulting in better acceptance of the product and meeting the need to provide a “consistent” supply to the markets. Congestion at the airport will be greatly reduced, resulting in product not being held over until the next plane. Divers will also have more flexibility to work around poor weather conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1) All participants who favor increasing the value of the fishery. 2) All divers who want to work in a safer fishery. 3) All divers who want more time and flexibility in their harvest. 4) All divers who want to maximize the value of the product by direct-marketing. 5) All “end-user” buyers who demand a consistent supply of high quality live product. 6) The State of Alaska - in all the ways related to increasing the value of a fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Divers who will not be able to hit their previous higher harvest rates. A local buyer who may be bypassed by divers who now have increased opportunity to market their own product.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The solution that we have rejected is continuation of the status quo. To date, other solutions that we consider viable are Trip Limits and Split Management Area.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association

(HQ-08F-117)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

Change start date of geoduck season as follows:

From **July 1** [OCTOBER 1] through **June 30** [SEPTEMBER 30], geoducks may be taken during fishing periods established by emergency order.

ISSUE: Currently the dive season may not begin before October 1. As the Southeast Alaska geoduck annual GHL continues to increase an expansion of the season may become desirable. A very profitable time of year to expand the fishery into are the months of August and September.

The only way to dive those months right now is to carry GHLS on the books for the entire year in order to be able to access the months mentioned at the end of the current dive year. Trying to harvest GHLS at the end of a season may result in lost harvest opportunities due to the product failing Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) tests. This would result in unharvested product staying in the ground until a sub-area's next rotation (1-6 years).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Divers will not realistically be able to harvest during one of the highest market demand periods of the year.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal provides for marketing opportunities currently not being utilized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Every person interested in expanding marketing opportunities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People not interested in having diving occur this time of year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Divers have expressed an interest in diving in late summer but aren't interested in risking the lost opportunities associated with sub-areas testing hot at the end of a season, resulting in unharvested product until the next rotation.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-08F-118)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.
Establish trip limits for geoduck fishery as follows:

All geoduck diving in Southeast Alaska will be conducted using a Trip Limit program for every diver for the entire season.

Prior to the season SARDFa will determine when to start diving. SARDFa will also decide the maximum amount of product to be harvested during each week of the season (weekly poundage target).

Once the season begins and a PSP testing schedule is in place divers must register on a weekly basis with the Department of Fish and Game in order to be able to dive that week. Such registration will be done electronically (email) or over the phone, after the weekly PSP results are known, by a time deadline the Department of F&G determines appropriate.

During the “weekly registration” divers would indicate to the Department of F&G which sub-area (only one area) they were signing up for. The Department, using the “weekly poundage target” and the total number of registrants for that week, would determine that week’s trip limit.

If a sub-area’s GHl was not large enough to accommodate the number of divers that had signed up for that sub-area the Department would recalculate the trip limit for that particular sub-area. Such computation would be accomplished by taking into consideration the number of registrants for the sub-area in question and the poundage available.

The Department would make the trip limit information available to everyone in a manner they deem appropriate and as expeditiously as possible.

Divers would be able to dive for their trip limit all of the days of the week that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would allow (usually 3 days of diving) or a number that SARDFa deems appropriate, not to exceed DEC guidelines.

ISSUE: Currently geoduck diving is conducted in a Derby Style fishery. Divers feel forced to go out in bad weather, regardless of market conditions, shipping arrangements or the quality of product they bring in. Divers simply harvest everything they can while they can and hope for the best price.

Alaska provides less than 7% of the world market yet when we place two or three times the daily demand on the market in a single day we degrade the market for ourselves as well as others in the marketplace.

With our current “race to harvest” management style Alaska is getting a reputation in the marketplace for poor quality product. When divers are harvesting as much and as fast as they can their ability to control the quality of their product is greatly diminished. With the huge harvests we sometimes have shipment becomes unmanageable, resulting in product losses and further degradation of markets. With our current management style it is very difficult for those divers who want to market their own product to provide a consistent supply of high quality product.

Geoducks are sold on the live market and anything that can be done to expedite their arrival at the market in the best condition possible should be of the utmost importance. Currently this is not being done.

Divers feel forced to go out in bad weather if their only opportunity to fish that week is one narrow time span of one or two days. They encounter bad weather traveling to and from the grounds and increased chances of other boats dragging into them as they work underwater, making an already hazardous occupation much more so.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska fleet will continue to harvest an unlimited and inconsistent amount of product per opening, negatively affecting the value of the entire fishery. Divers will continue to operate in a Derby-style fishery, negatively affecting safety fleet-wide. Product quality will continue to suffer and shipping limitations will continue to be an ever worsening problem. As our annual GHL continues to increase, the problems continue to compound.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Divers would have more time to harvest and care for their product. Spreading out the dispersal of product to the market would be done over a larger timeframe, resulting in better acceptance of the product and meeting the need to provide a "consistent" supply to the markets. Congestion at the airport would be greatly reduced, resulting in product not being held over until the next plane. Divers would also have more flexibility to work around poor weather conditions. All of the above will provide opportunity to develop and maintain the high quality standards that the market demands.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1) All participants who favor increasing the value of the fishery. 2) All divers who want to work in a safer fishery. 3) All divers who want more time and flexibility in their harvest. 4) All divers who want to maximize the value of the product by direct-marketing. 5) All "end-user" buyers who demand a consistent supply of high quality live product. 6) The State of Alaska - in all the ways related to increasing the value of a fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Divers who will not be able to harvest in some areas. Divers who will not be able to hit their previous higher seasonal harvest rates. A local buyer who may be bypassed by divers who now have increased opportunity to market their own product.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Divers who will not be able to hit their previous higher seasonal harvest rates. A local buyer who may be bypassed by divers who now have increased opportunity to market their own product.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-08F-116)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.
Divide management area in Southeast into two areas for geoduck fishery as follows:

The management area in Southeast Alaska shall be divided into two management areas separated by a line that splits Lynn Canal, Chatham Strait through western Fredrick Sound, Rocky Passage, Eastern Sumner Strait and Clarence Strait to an appropriate landfall in Clarence Strait. This landfall point will be adjusted annually according to registration and quota specifics each season, allowing enough designated quota for each harvest area.

The Management areas will be either east or west of the line with the west area designated as an equal share fishery area and east and southeast of the line as an open harvest area. When the boundary line makes landfall on price of Wales Island, the open harvest fishery area will also include any geoduck sub areas on the east coast of Prince of Wales Island that fall to the south of the boundary lie. By an early pre-season date, all divers will register to fish in one of the areas for the entire season. Overall quota for each management area will be determined by the % of registered divers participating that season.

Prior to the season, SARDFa will determine when to begin the season for both harvest areas. SARDFa will also decide the maximum amount of product to be harvested during each week. (weekly poundage target) in the equal share fishery. SARDFa will be responsible for structuring how the equal share and open fisheries cooperate. The priority will be to not have the two fisheries being conducted concurrently.

Once the season begins and a PSP testing schedule is in place, equal share divers will register on a weekly basis with ADF&G in order to be able to dive that week. This registration will be done electronically (email) or over the phone, after the weekly PSO results are known, by a time deadline that ADF&G determines is appropriate.

During the weekly registration, divers will indicate to ADF&G which sub area (only one area) they are signing up for and how much of their equal share they plan to harvest that week. If a sub area's GHl is not large enough to accommodate the number of equal share divers that had registered for that sub area, ADF&G will recalculate the divers' allowable harvest amount for that particular sub area. This computation will be accomplished by taking into consideration the registrants' poundage request and the poundage available.

An in-season harvesting adjustment will be made at a pre-determined, late-season date for poundage not harvested due to slow individual harvesting rates and non-harvesting by registered divers. SARDFa will also set a target ending date, at which time harvesting for the year will cease and any un-harvested quota will remain so.

This adjustment will be managed similar to the pre-season registration. Only individuals that registered pre-season for the equal share fishery may participate in the "remainder of the season" registration. The regular-season list of equal share registered divers will re-register with ADF&G by specified date. The remaining GHl will be harvested as per the above in-season protocol.

Participants of either fishery will be able to harvest, whether in the regular season or the latter part of the season, all of the days of the week that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will allow (usually 3 days of diving) or a number that SARDFa deems appropriate, not to exceed DEC guidelines.

ISSUE: Currently geoduck diving is conducted in a Derby-style fishery. The one or two day a week fishery occurs without regard to quality control, marketing situations, shipping conditions or weather. Divers harvest everything they can in a short opening and hope for the best price.

Alaska provides less than 7% of the world market yet when we currently place two or three times the daily demand on the market in a single day we degrade the market for ourselves as well as others in the marketplace.

With our current “race to harvest” management style, Alaska is getting a reputation in the marketplace for poor quality product. When divers are harvesting as much and as fast as they can, their ability to control product quality is greatly diminished. With the huge harvests sometimes shipment becomes unmanageable, resulting in product losses and further degradation of markets. With our current management style it is very difficult for those divers who want to market their own product to provide a consistent supply of high quality product.

Geoducks are sold on the live market and anything that can be done to expedite their arrival at the market in the best condition possible should be of the utmost importance. Currently this is not being done.

Divers feel forced to go out in bad weather if their only opportunity to fish that week is one narrow time span of one or two days. They encounter bad weather traveling to and from the grounds and increased chances of other boats dragging into them as they work underwater, making an already hazardous occupation much more so.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska fleet will continue to harvest an unlimited and inconsistent amount of product per opening, negatively affecting the value of the entire fishery. Divers will continue to operate in a Derby-style fishery, negatively affecting safety fleet-wide. Product quality will continue to suffer and shipping limitations will continue to be an ever worsening problem. As our annual GHl continues to increase, the problems continue to compound.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Equal share divers will have more time to harvest and care for their product. Spreading out the dispersal of product to the market will be done over a larger time frame, resulting in a better acceptance of the product and meeting the need to provide a “consistent” supply to the market. Congestion at the airports will be greatly reduced, resulting in product not being held over until the next plane compromising quality. Divers will also have more flexibility to work around poor weather conditions. All of the above will provide opportunity to develop and maintain the high quality standards that the market demands.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1) All participants who favors increasing the value of the fishery. 2) All divers who want to work in a safe fishery. 3) All divers who want more time and flexibility in their harvest. 4) All divers who want to maximize the value of the product by direct-marketing. 5) All “end-user” buyers who demand a consistent supply of high quality live product. 6) The State of Alaska – in all the ways related to increasing the value of a fishery. 7) Divers who favor a derby style fishery will still have that option. This proposal provides an option for divers and will clearly demonstrate the will of the fleet.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Divers who will not be able to harvest in some areas. Divers who will not be able to hit their previous higher seasonal harvest rates. A local buyer who may be bypassed by divers who now have increased opportunity to market their own product.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The solution that we have rejected is continuation of the status quo. To date, other solutions that we considered viable are Equal Share and Trip Limit.

PROPOSED BY: Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-08F-115)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 192 - 5AAC 38.146. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RED SEA URCHINS, SEA CUCUMBERS, AND GEODUCK CLAMS IN REGISTRATION AREA A.

Amend these regulations as follows:

5 AAC 38.146. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RED SEA URCHINS, SEA CUCUMBERS, AND GEODUCK IN REGISTRATION AREA A. (a) Registration Area A is a registration area for red sea urchins[,] **and** sea cucumbers [, AND GEODUCKS]. **For geoducks in Area A the registration areas are the Southern Management Area including Districts 1–8 and the Northern Management Area, including Districts 9–16.**

(c) [THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE] **H**olders of CFEC permits for red sea urchin, sea cucumber, or geoducks [TO] **shall** register with the department before harvesting those resources.

(1) a geoduck permit holder shall contact the department at least 24 hours prior to fishing in a different registration area.

(2) the department may require area registration for geoducks that allows fishing in only one area with a guideline harvest level (GHL) at a time if it is determined that it will assist with the management of the geoduck fishery. [A PERMIT HOLDER INTENDING TO HARVEST GEODUCKS MAY REGISTER TO FISH IN ONLY ONE GEODUCK BED AS SPECIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT AT A TIME. ONCE REGISTERED FOR A BED, A PERMIT HOLDER MAY ONLY FISH IN A DIFFERENT BED AFTER CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT AND REGISTERING FOR THE NEW BED].

ISSUE: Present regulations require a burdensome geoduck bed registration process that is not practical in all management areas of southeast Alaska.

The current ADEC certifying protocol has been in place for the past two seasons and outlines the safe level of PSP to allow harvest for live sales, and a timeline when harvests for live sale can occur. Under the current certification protocol for the Ketchikan geoduck areas, there are only three days between the results of the PSP test and the end of the live sale certification period. This limits the time for registering and harvesting to a three day period. This same limitation is not always applicable to the Sitka area where geoduck harvest may be 7 days a week. Because of this very limited timeframe the department has used emergency order authority to remove the section that required bed registration.

This proposal would provide sub-regional area registration for geoducks for the Southern and Northern districts of Southeast Alaska consistent with the current registration practice. This proposal maintains the option for registration specific to an area with a guideline harvest level when needed to maintain harvests within established GHLs. The department has successfully used local area registration in conjunction with trip limits (5AAC 38.142 (k)) to manage for small remaining GHLs in the Sitka area. Registration for a specific bed would be within an area with a GHL and is not necessary for management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The registration process would continue to be extremely burdensome to both the department and the industry. This needless registration would result in increased cost to the industry.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The quality would be improved by streamlining these regulations to promote live sale of geoducks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial geoduck harvesters and the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-08F-306)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.
Amend the regulation as follows:

5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.

(1)(3)(A) waters of Kliuchevoi Bay east of a line from **56°** [55] 50.40' N. lat., 135° 22.52' W. long.

ISSUE: Degrees latitude is incorrect as listed and needs to be fixed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The regulation will incorrectly define geoduck clam closed waters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone as the regulation will be corrected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. This is a housekeeping proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-08F-307)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 194 – 5AAC 38.140 (d) SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA SEA CUCUMBER MANAGEMENT PLAN. Amend this regulation as follows:

(d) A **CFEC permit holder** [PERSON] may not land or possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any fishing period established by the department **except as provided in this section.** Harvest limits may be repealed by emergency order if guideline harvest levels have not been reached.

(X) A CFEC permit holder operating as an agent for a licensed processor whose vessel is registered as a tender may commercially harvest sea cucumbers and transport sea cucumbers caught by another permit holder. In this situation the vessel may have onboard more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers providing that completed fish tickets are onboard as required by 5AAC 39.130.

(k)(3)(A) the waters of Section 3-A that are . . . , north of a line from the southernmost tip of Sukkwan Island to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 54° 59.53' N. lat., **132°** [131] 36.73' W. long., and west of a line from a point on Prince of Wales Island at ...

ISSUE: Current regulation prohibits any person from possessing more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated cucumbers. This regulation makes it illegal for a tender to transport more than 2,000 pounds of sea cucumbers even though they were purchased from multiple fishermen. Regulations need to be modified to allow sea cucumber tenders to operate in the commercial sea cucumber fishery. ADF&G has allowed sea cucumber tender operation to occur during the last two years using EO authority.

This proposal would clarify the intent of the board to allow a permit holder who is registered as a tender to participate in the sea cucumber fishery.

Also, as a housekeeping measure, the degrees longitude for a closed waters area in Section 3-A is incorrect as listed and needs to be fixed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tenders will not operate efficiently.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The use of tenders has the ability to increase product quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Permit holders and processors will benefit with the use of tenders. Permit holders who also operate as tenders will be allowed to participate in the commercial sea cucumber fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-08F-305)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.
Move boundary for commercial sea cucumber fishery to the north end of St. Philip Island as follows:

Move boundary line to the north end of St. Phillips (back to its original boundary).

ISSUE: Commercial divers are depleting the sea cucumber stocks in the inner bay.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The cucumber stocks will cease to exist for subsistence users.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Working to preserve the sea cucumber stocks to ensure stocks for future generations of subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users would benefit if passed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial divers in the area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-08F-084)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 38.140 (k) (1) (B). Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. Reopen Clover Pass area near Ketchikan to commercial sea cucumber fishing regulation as follows:

This section in the regulation book 5 AAC 38.140 Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (k) (1) (B) would be deleted.

ISSUE: The Clover Pass area (District 1, Section 1-F), near Ketchikan, was closed to the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers several years ago. At the time the regulation was passed it was meant to protect the shrimp and Dungeness crab personal use fishery in the area. However, the Board of Fisheries closed it to all shellfish, including sea cucumbers. SARDFFA would like to have this area available to the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers since there is no known subsistence or personal use harvest of sea cucumbers in this area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The commercial sea cucumber divers will lose an opportunity to fish in this area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The commercial sea cucumber fishery has been very successfully managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for many years. By including this area as a commercial harvest area a high quality product will be added to the overall fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Commercial sea cucumber divers, local processors, and the Ketchikan Borough would all benefit from a larger sea cucumber HGL in the Ketchikan area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There is no documented subsistence or personal use harvest of sea cucumbers in this area, so it is unknown if a commercial sea cucumber fishery in this area would effect anyone.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFFA)
(HQ-08F-086)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 38.145 (N). Southeastern Alaska Red Sea Urchin Management Plan. Delete onboard observer requirement for red sea urchin fishery as follows:

5 AAC 38.145 (N). Southeastern Alaska Red Sea Urchin Management Plan.
Delete the line [A VESSEL THAT IS USED FOR THE PROCESSING OF RED SEA URCHINS MUST CARRY AN ONBOARD OBSERVER] .

ISSUE: Section (n) A vessel that is used for the processing of red sea urchins must carry an onboard observer as specified in 5 AAC 39.141- 5 AAC 39.645 if unprocessed red sea urchins are on board that vessel. The commissioner may, instead of requiring an onboard observer under this section, require that the processing of red sea urchins be conducted under a permit issued by the commissioner with the following conditions...

Delete the sunset clause from this regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will be cost prohibitive for boats that want to direct market sea urchin products.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Direct marketing produces a finished quality product from raw product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fishermen that want to direct market red sea urchin.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tom Carruth (HQ-08F-087)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 38.062. Permits for octopi, squid, hair crab, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, sea snails, and other marine invertebrates; 5 AAC 38.061. Fishing season for octopi and squid; and 5 AAC 38.xxx. New section. Amend the regulation to develop an octopus management plan with octopus as a bycatch only species as follows:

5 AAC 38.061 would be amended as follows:

FISHING SEASON FOR OCTOPI AND SQUID. There is no closed season for [OCTOPI] and squid.

5 AAC 38.062 would be amended as follows:

Permits for octopi, squid, hair crab, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, sea snails, and other marine invertebrates. (a) Unless otherwise specified in 5 AAC 03 – 5 AAC 39, marine invertebrates, except king crab, tanner crab Dungeness crab, clams, scallop, and spot, coonstripe and pink shrimp, and krill (species of the Order Euphausiacea), and **octopi**, may be taken only under the authority of a permit issued by the Commissioner or the Commissioner’s authorized designee.

5 AAC 38.xxx – new regulation

SOUTHEAST AREA OCTOPUS MANAGENT PLAN

There is no open season for directed fishing for octopus, but retention as bycatch is allowed as follows:

- (1) octopus may be retained as bycatch only, in an amount not to exceed 35% by weight, of the directed catch of the whole weight of shrimp on board a vessel; and
- (2) octopus may be retained as bycatch only, in an amount not exceed 15% by weight of the directed longline catch on board a vessel; and
- (3) the annual guideline harvest level of octopus as bycatch may not exceed 35,000 pounds in round weight, and
- (4) when the guideline harvest level of octopus has been reached, the Commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the Southeast Area to the retention of octopus.
- 5) All octopus retained weather sold or used for personal bait will be recorded on a fish ticket.

ISSUE: The development of an octopus management plan with octopus as a by-catch only species. Currently shrimp fishermen have to apply yearly for a Commissioner’s permit to retain octopus as bycatch in the pot shrimp fishery. Longline fishermen also occasionally catch octopus as a bycatch and would like to retain them for bait or to be sold if markets could be developed. This management plan is based off the plan in Cook Inlet would allow fishermen to retain octopus as a bycatch species without the need for a Commissioner’s permit. We believe that when Commissioner’s permits are applied for in a specific fishery year after year, it is time to consider the development of a regulation addressing the issue. Rather than just address the bycatch of octopus in the pot shrimp fishery, we are instead trying to develop a management plan that addresses all uses of octopus. In researching octopus on a statewide basis, the state has a bycatch limit of 20% of the directed species catch according to the Octopus and Squid Fisheries in Alaska Overview. This management plan will provide a framework and limits that are appropriate for use in the various fisheries. We have suggested higher than 20% for the pot shrimp fisheries as the 20% was an amount based on weight where the directed fisheries are cod and Pollock (trawl, pot and longline) versus the weight of a shrimp.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status quo – where each individual fisherman will apply for a commissioner’s permit every year. There are markets available for octopus and without this management plan we lost economic value to the fishermen on an underutilized resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Product quality on the directed catch would not be improved but a market is available and this management plan would allow an underutilized resource to enter the marketplace.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Shrimp fishermen and others won’t have to apply to the Commissioner for a permit year after year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We don’t believe that octopus as a bycatch species only will hurt anyone in Southeast Alaska. There is no directed fishery on the resource. Bycatch only and a management plan will protect the octopus and the GHF can be re-evaluated at a later Board of Fish cycle if ADF&G develops some concerns.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance

(HQ-08F-269)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____

Note, this proposal was inadvertently omitted from the 2008/2009 Board of Fisheries proposal book. It is scheduled for preliminary consideration during the January 21-27, 2009 meeting in Petersburg and final consideration during the February 17-26, 2009 meeting in Sitka.

PROPOSAL 368 - 5 AAC 47.xxx. New section. Establish possession limits for nonresidents at one daily bag limit for all species as follows:

5 AAC 47.xxx The possession limit for non-residents for all species will be one daily bag limit.

ISSUE: Change the regulations for possession limits for non-residents to be one daily bag limit for all species. Too many non-residents determined the validity of their trip on what the commercial value is of the bag limits they are allowed to keep. Alaska does not need to give larges amounts of its resources away to non-residents to take home and put in freezers and eventually be thrown out. A reasonable amount of fish would be provided under this regulation as processed fish does not count toward their possession limit. This regulation would also prevent the abuse of leaving at 11:59 the night before and therefore claiming it is a two day trip or alternatively coming in on the second day at 12:01 a.m. This does not harm the Alaskan resident taking a weekend trip.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued abuse of the bag limits and the amount of fish taken out of the State. Accurate and timely reporting of the harvest in the recreational sector is an issue. The ADF&G logbook report presented to the Council in April of 2008 stated their was a 7% difference in harvest numbers if the Statewide Harvest Survey is not adjusted for the charter clients that report over a daily bag limit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Enforcement of bag limits will be easier.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who abuse the current system.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The Board of Fish developed a committee after the last Southeast BOF cycle to address the issue of possession limits. Didn't know if a recommendation or proposals would be forthcoming. Dealing with this is probably better than changing the possession limit but we wanted to offer an alternative.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (HQ-08F-276)

SUPPORT **OPPOSE**
FINAL ACTION: Carries Fails Tabled No Action See Prop. # _____

ABSENT _____ ABSTAIN _____

DATE _____ TIME _____ TAPE# _____