

PROPOSAL 234 - 5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in Registration Area

J. Establish weather criteria to delay opening of commercial fishing periods for sea cucumbers in the Kodiak District of Registration Area J, as follows:

Opening of a weekly sea cucumber fishing period in all sections of the Kodiak Area will be delayed for 24-hours if the National Weather Service marine forecast for Area 138 (Shelikof Strait) and/or Area 132 (Marmot Island to Sitkinak) issued at 4:00 a.m. on the day before and the day of the scheduled opening date contains gale warnings. If after the initial delay, the 4:00 a.m. forecast for the current day plus the following day again contains a gale warning, the weekly fishing period opening will be delayed an additional 24-hours. Delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until gale warnings are no forecasted for the day before and day of the scheduled opening.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish criteria to delay opening of a weekly sea cucumber fishing period in the Kodiak Area based on poor weather. The Kodiak sea cucumber fishery occurs during October and November when poor weather and rough seas are common. During some years vessels are unable to safely reach the fishing grounds prior to opening of the weekly fishing periods due to poor weather. Additionally, water visibility is reduced for cucumber divers diving in rough seas. Delaying the start of weekly fishing periods based on the marine forecast will improve safety for all vessels and divers and ensure an equal opportunity for small vessels to participate in the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Vitt/Kadma (HQ-F14-002)

PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 38.411. Fishing seasons for sea cucumbers in Registration Area

J. Modify the Chignik District fishing season for sea cucumbers to open two weeks earlier than the remainder of Registration Area J, as follows:

In Registration Area J, a person may take sea cucumbers only from October 1 through April 30 and only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner; except in the Chignik Area where a person may take sea cucumbers only from the September 15 through April 30 and only under the authority of a permit issued by the commissioner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more opportunity for sea cucumber harvest in the Chignik Area. There is no local processor in Chignik so all cucumbers must be delivered to Kodiak. An earlier start date may allow for cucumber fishing during a time of year with better weather and safer operation and transport.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Vitt/Kadma (HQ-F14-003)

PROPOSAL 236 - 5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J. Establish an earlier season closure for the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian districts' commercial Dungeness crab fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 32.410(a) is amended to read:

5 AAC 32.410. Fishing seasons for Registration Area J. (a) In the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Districts, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed from 12:00 noon May 1 until 11:59 p.m. **November 1** [DECEMBER 30], except that in the waters of the Kodiak District south of the latitude of Boot Point at 56° 49.98' N. lat., and east of longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long. and waters south of the latitude of Cape Ikolik at 57° 17.40' N. lat., and west of the longitude of Boot Point at 153° 46.10' W. long., male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only from 12:00 noon June 15 until 11:59 p.m. **November 1** [DECEMBER 30].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Kodiak, Chignik, and Alaska Peninsula districts, less than five percent of the total annual Dungeness crab harvest occurs after November 1. Reports from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and fishery stakeholders indicate Dungeness crab gear loss is higher in November and December due to winter storms compared to summer and fall months. Lost or unretrievable pots may increase Dungeness, Tanner and king crab mortality through ghost fishing and result in gear conflicts with other fisheries that occur after the Dungeness crab seasons close.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-106)

PROPOSAL 237 - 5 AAC 02.466. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of shellfish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses. Amend the customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for shellfish in the Kodiak Area by adding Tanner crab to the list of shellfish stocks customarily or traditionally taken for subsistence, as follows:

5 AAC 02.466(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following shellfish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

(1) king crab in the Kodiak Area, as described in 5 AAC 02.400, except for the Semidi Island Overlap, the North Mainland, and the South Mainland Sections, as described in 5 AAC 35.505(a);

(2) Dungeness crab and miscellaneous shellfish, on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula between Kilokak Rocks 156° 19' W. long. and Cape Kumlik 157° 27' W. long.;

(3) Tanner crab in the Kodiak Area, as described in 5 AAC 02.400, except for the Semidi Island Overlap, the North Mainland, and the South Mainland Sections, as described in 5 AAC 35.505(a).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 5 AAC 02.466 there is no C&T finding for Tanner crab although there is a subsistence Tanner crab fishery provided under 5 AAC 02.425. Tanner crab were included in the original customary and traditional use worksheet

presented to the Alaska Board of Fisheries; however, Tanner crab were not on the agenda at that meeting so no finding was made at that time. This proposal would add a C&T finding for Tanner crab to 5 AAC 02.466.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-108)

PROPOSAL 238 - 5 AAC 38.425. Closed waters for scallops in Registration Area J. Amend scallop closed waters description, as follows:

5 AAC 38.425(3) is amended to read:

5 AAC 38.425. Closed waters for scallops in Registration Area J.

(3) all waters enclosed by a line from Cape Chiniak at 57° 37.20' N. lat., 152° 09.37' W. long. to **a point offshore at 57° 38.00' N. lat., 152° 09.00' W. long., continuing to a point offshore at 57° 38.00' N. lat., 151° 47.00' W. long., continuing to Cape St. Hermogenes on Marmot Island at 58° 15.00' N. lat., 151° 47.00' W. long., and a line from** Marmot Cape at 58° 10.00' N. lat., 151° 52.00' W. long., to Pillar Cape on Afognak Island at 58° 08.90' N. lat., 152° 06.77' W. long., and a line from Inner Point on Kodiak Island to Afognak Point at 152° 47.75' W. long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the March 2012 Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting the board adopted a proposal submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) to update and standardize scallop closed waters boundary descriptions in the Kodiak Area. At that time, the closed-waters boundary line from Cape Chiniak to Marmot Island was inadvertently modified reversing a longstanding bottom trawl and dredge gear closure area. Prior to the start of the 2013 and 2014 scallop fisheries, the department used emergency order authority to close this area to scallop dredging consistent with the pre-2012 regulation. This proposal would correct this error in regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-107)
