

PROPOSAL 242 - 5 AAC 34.917. Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab harvest strategy. Correct an error in regulation to accurately specify the percentage of mature male blue king crab used in setting total allowable catch, as follows:

5 AAC 34.917 is amended to read:

5 AAC 34.917. Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab harvest strategy. (a) In the Saint Matthew Island Section, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the blue king crab fishery only if the department's **preseason survey estimate of the number of mature male** [ANALYSIS OF PRESEASON SURVEY DATA INDICATES THAT THE POPULATION OF] blue king crab **equals** [CONTAINS] at least **50 percent of the 1978–2012 average survey estimate of** [1.609 MILLION] mature males.

(b) If the commercial blue king crab fishery is open under (a) of this section, and the **preseason survey estimate of the** [ESTIMATED POPULATION] number of mature males [{"M"}] is

(1) at least **50 percent of the 1978–2012 average survey estimate of** [1.609 MILLION] mature males, but less than **the 1978–2012 average survey estimate of** [3.217 MILLION] mature males, the number of legal males available for harvest will be no more than **$0.1 \times M \times (M/M_{1978-2012})$** , where **M = the current year preseason survey estimate of mature males and $M_{1978-2012} =$ the 1978–2012 average survey estimate of mature males** [A PERCENTAGE OF THE ESTIMATED POPULATION NUMBER OF MATURE MALES EQUAL TO A NUMBER DERIVED FROM THE EQUATION [(M/3.217) X 100 PERCENT]] or 25 percent of the **preseason survey estimate of the** [ESTIMATED POPULATION] number of legal males, whichever is less;

(2) **equal to or greater than the 1978–2012 average survey estimate of** [3.217 MILLION OR MORE] mature males, the number of legal males available for harvest will be no more than 10 percent of the estimated population number of mature males or 25 percent of the **preseason survey estimate of the** [ESTIMATED POPULATION] number of legal males, whichever is less.

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(d) For the purposes of this section,

(1) **“preseason survey estimate”** [“ESTIMATED POPULATION NUMBER”] means the

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Correct an error in the Saint Matthew Island Section blue king crab regulatory harvest strategy that was inadvertently introduced when the regulation was adopted. The number of legal males available for harvest is currently specified as 100 percent of the current mature male abundance estimate multiplied by the fraction of the current mature male abundance estimate relative to the average of historic mature male abundance estimates; however, the number of legal males available for harvest was meant to be specified as 10 percent of the current mature male abundance estimate multiplied by that fraction. Proposed changes in text also clarify the regulation by replacing “estimated population number” with “preseason survey estimate of the number.” In addition, the department proposes to replace the mature male abundance threshold for opening the fishery as well as for determining harvest rate with a formula for deriving the threshold and harvest rate calculation based on the most current estimate of the 1978–2012 average survey estimate of mature males, rather than a prescribed value based on the estimate from that time series that was available when the harvest strategy was first adopted. This change will allow

the harvest strategy to stay current with respect to corrections and improvements subsequently made to survey estimates of mature males.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-162)
