

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.

Establish a regulatory closure date for the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial golden king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.110(b) is amended to read:

(b) Male golden king 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 November 15.** [;UNTIL THE SEASON IS CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose of this proposal is to provide maximum fishing opportunity while allowing the department adequate time to assess fishery data after the season closes. The proposed season end date provides a three-month closure for processing and analysis of fishery data; similar to what is provided for the Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery. Setting a fixed season end date also allows fishery participants to better plan their annual fishing operations. An end date in regulation would not supersede current management practices of targeting GHs by fishery area and closing fishery areas by emergency order when GHs are met, or closing areas short of GHs due to conservation concerns.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-106)
