

**PROPOSAL 88**

**5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**

Modify the method for establishing the guideline harvest level in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial sea cucumber fishery, as follows:

(h)  $M = 0.32$  estimated instantaneous mortality rate for sea cucumbers;  $P$  = virgin population size, taken as the **mid-point** (lower bound) of the one sided 90 percent confidence interval.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) would like to have ADF&G establish the Guideline Harvest Level for the sea cucumber fishery using the mid-point of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval based on their assessment surveys. This would allow for a higher GHL while maintaining a conservatively managed fishery especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population.

*What would happen if nothing is changed?* The GHL would still be managed at lower levels, especially in areas where sea otters are decimating the population regardless if the lower or mid-point is used.

*What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?* It is possible to discuss this on an area by area basis. SARDFA believes in areas where sea otters are decimating the sea cucumber population the extremely conservative management of the lower bound of the confidence level is not necessary.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F17-068)

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