

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 32.126. Dungeness crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 34.126. King crab pot marking requirements for Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 35.126. Tanner crab gear marking requirements for Registration Area A.

Clarify regulations related to the sale of buoy tags to commercial Dungeness crab fishery permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 32.126(b) is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The **permit holder**, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags. Replacement of lost tags during a season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] submits a sworn statement or affidavit describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags. Tags shall be renewed annually at the time of registration before each fishing season.

5 AAC 34.126 is amended to read:

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 34.051(c), identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued to the permit holder at the time of vessel registration. The permit holder, or the permit holder's agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue tags. [IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 5 AAC 34.051, IN REGISTRATION AREA A, REPLACEMENT] **Replacement** of [IDENTIFICATION] **lost** tags [LOST] during the season is permitted if the [VESSEL OPERATOR] **permit holder** and at least one crewmember submit sworn statements or affidavits, in person, at a department office in Registration Area A, describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags.

(b) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the golden king crab and Tanner crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.

5 AAC 35.126 is amended to read:

(b) Identification tags are issued before each fishing season, are uniquely numbered for each registration year, and will be issued **to the permit holder** at the time of vessel registration [FOR THAT VESSEL ONLY]. The permit holder, [VESSEL OWNER] or the **permit holder's** [OWNER'S] agent, shall apply for identification tags at a department office designated to issue the tags. Replacement of tags lost during the season is permitted if the **permit holder** [VESSEL OPERATOR] and at least one crewmember submit sworn statements or affidavits, in person, at **a** [THE] department office **in Registration Area A,** [THAT ISSUED THE TAGS] describing how the tags were lost and listing the numbers of the lost tags [TAGS SHALL BE RENEWED ANNUALLY BEFORE EACH FISHING SEASON].

(c) Each Tanner crab ring net must have an identification tag, as specified in (a) of this section.

(d) If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries, the tags are issued to the vessel for the duration of the fishing seasons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The department has maintained a procedure of selling and associating buoy tags to a permit holder, and not to a specific vessel or CFEC permit card. This allows permit holders to switch vessels mid-season and keep their purchased tags, and also allows permit holders in the Dungeness crab fishery to switch permits and keep some or all of their purchased tags.

Issuing buoy tags to a specific vessel or a specific CFEC permit card creates logistical problems for enforcement and crab management staff, so the exception to issue buoy tags to a specific vessel in cases when multiple CFEC permit holders register a vessel simultaneously for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries would allow the department to use the same approach it uses now for a single individual registering for the Tanner crab and golden king crab fisheries with a single permit that allows the privilege to fish for both species.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-104)

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Reduce the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 240 pots, as follows:

(a) In Registration area A, no more than 240 Dungeness Crab Pots may be operated from a single vessel to take Dungeness crab under any circumstances. A person may not operate more pots than allowed under the terms of that persons CFEC permit. If multiple CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel the maximum number of pots that may be operated from that vessel is the aggregate of the number of pots allowed under the registered permit holder permits, except that the number of pots operated on board that vessel may not exceed 240 pots.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To reduce the number of Dungeness Crab pots that a single vessel can operate. This proposal will reduce the number of Dungeness Crab pots on the fishing grounds from a possible 42450 pots to 33960 pots. Due to sea otter predation the Dungeness fishing grounds have become over saturated with gear, this proposal if adopted would take some of the pressure off the grounds and allow fisherman to more effectively operate their gear.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Littleton (EF-F17-005)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 32.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.

Increase the maximum number of pots per vessel in the Southeastern Alaska Area commercial Dungeness crab fishery from 300 pots to 400 pots, as follows:

(a) In Registration Area A, no more than **400** Dungeness crab pots may be operated from a single vessel to take Dungeness crab under any circumstances. A person may not operate more pots than allowed under the terms of that persons CFEC permit. **If additional CFEC permit holders are registered to fish from a vessel, each additional permit will be allowed to operate one third of the terms of the additional persons CFEC permit aboard that vessel.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Area A Dungeness crab fishery there is too many commercial crab pots fishing. Due to the increased efficiency of the fleet, there is shorter soak times which do not allow non-legal crab to leave the pot through the escape rings.

This proposal would increase the number of crab pots per vessel to 400. This will increase soak times allowing non-legal crab time to escape the pot. This proposal would only give one third of the value of the terms of a stacked permit. This will remove a significant number of pots out of the water for the whole fleet.

PROPOSED BY: Derek Thynes (EF-F17-114)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.

Close waters of Twelvemile Arm to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

(11) waters of Twelve-mile Arm west of a line **at 55'31.262'N lat., 132'34.141'W long, to 55'30.170'N lat., 132'33.731'W long., and north and east of a line at 55'26.410'N lat., 132'40.050'W long., to 55'26.333'N lat., 132'39.529'W long.;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The residents of Prince of Wales Island have continued to see an increased presence of commercial Dungeness crab fisherman in 12-mile arm. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet has seen an increased in sea otters in other areas of Southeast Alaska and very low numbers of Dungeness crab in those areas. The area of Hollis has seen an increase of personal use Dungeness crab fisherman from the communities on the western shore of Prince of Wales. The fisherman of Hollis continues to see lower numbers of crab from the increase of all users. A small increase to the area closed to taking Dungeness crab commercially will continue to allow a sustainable biomass to be harvested by personal use fisherman to supplement the high cost of living and depressed economy on Prince of Wales Island. The commercial Dungeness crab fleet would not be impacted by this small increase to the existing closed fishing area.

PROPOSED BY: Hollis Community Council Inc. (EF-F17-022)

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close waters in the Klawock vicinity to sport fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen will be prohibited: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55°34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; at 55°30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55°22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

The taking of Dungeness Crab by sport fishermen: in the waters near and surrounding Klawock; East of a point located on Prince of Wales Island North of Pt Ildefonso: at 55°34.625 North latitude; 133.16.554 West longitude; to Fern Point; 55°30.210 North latitude; 133.16.741 West longitude; and North of Tranquil Point; at 55°22.936 North latitude; 133.13.513 West longitude; These waters include Big Salt Lake, Picnic Bay, Shinaku Inlet, Klawock Inlet, San Alberto Bay, Bacareli Bay, Port Saint Nick and Trocadero Bay.

- Reasoning: economic; Charter businesses have been utilizing these areas to gather crab for profit by supplementing their businesses and decreasing the biomass for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island. Klawock and the surrounding communities have a large subsistence population that relies heavily on subsistence resources.
- Excessive pressure by charter businesses and sea otter population is depleting the resource
- A regulation closure of these specific areas to charter businesses would allow for the sustainability of the species for subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island and increase biomass of the species.
- The number of Charter businesses in Craig and Klawock is approximately 150 registered charter vessels multiplied by 4 people @ 5 crab per person per boat = 3000 crab per day that can be taken by Charter businesses
- Economics – charters can afford to buy gas and go beyond these immediate areas surrounding the community of Klawock
- The subsistence users in Klawock have only the bare necessities (18 foot Lund, 40 hp motor at best) to gather subsistence foods. Whereas the Charter businesses have top of the line gear (24 foot North River with twin 150 hp to 300 hp motors)
- In Klawock 73 % of households are at or below the federal and state poverty level and depend on local harvesting to sustain their households
- Klawock population is over half Native and is losing Traditional gathering areas to out of State business owners i.e.; charter businesses
- A majority of Prince of Wales Island communities are economically depressed with high rates of unemployment and other government assistance programs
- High cost of living on Prince of Wales Island
- This area has never been closed to sport fishing (charter businesses) help increase the biomass of Crab
- Depleted areas include all listed; Shinaku Inlet has been completely decimated from over harvesting to include human and marine mammals

- Oral histories have proven factual that these areas have been customary, traditional harvesting areas for the local Tlingit and Haida tribes since time immemorial, since then the population as a whole includes both Native and non-Native that rely on the subsistence lifestyle to sustain their households throughout the year
- There is not a Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) in place to better manage local resources for the subsistence user

PROPOSED BY: Tom & Brenda Leask, Byron Vaughn Skinna Jr. (EF-F17-104)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close waters in the Klawock vicinity to sport fishing for Dungeness crab, as follows:

The taking of Dungeness crabs by chartered sport fishing boats should be prohibited at least in the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The Klawock Cooperative Association, Tribe cannot speak for other parts of Southeast, Alaska but perhaps the Alaska Board of Fisheries should consider the impact of charter boat harvests of Dungeness crab elsewhere too.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The taking of Dungeness crab by sport fishermen in the areas adjacent to Craig and Klawock is decimating a resource that has traditionally been used for subsistence purposes.

Why it needs to be addressed: Approximately 150 charter boats are licensed to sport fish the middle area of the West coast of Prince of Wales Island. The target fish are salmon and halibut, with bottom fish also taken. But charter operators add a bonus. They set crab pots that they pull up on the way back from a fish run, and the charter fishers are treated to the freshest possible crab dinners. Unlike the subsistence harvesters who fish crab periodically for their families (they don't eat crab every day), charter operators have a steady stream of new clients almost daily throughout their season, so they can leave their crab pots, freshly baited daily, to fish without a break throughout their entire season. A little math shows that they can take thousands of Dungeness crab per day. Title IX of ANILCA provides that rural Alaskans are to be given priority in the use of subsistence foods whenever the viability of the resource is threatened. Subsistence users of Dungeness crabs in the areas mentioned have seen a reduction in the resource. A finite subsistence resource is being diminished by a fishery that is, in effect, an add-on luxury for sports fishers, but a serious threat to subsistence users.

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Tribe (EF-F17-108)

PROPOSAL 59

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Close the Yakutat Area Dungeness crab sport fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 47.021(b) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(b) in the Yakutat vicinity;

(4) in all waters between the longitude of Cape Suckling (144° W. long.) and a line running southwest from the western most tip of Cape Fairweather at 58° 47.89' N. lat. and 137° 56.68' W. long., sport fishing for Dungeness crab is closed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Surveys conducted by the department indicate that the Dungeness crab stock in the Yakutat Area has not rebuilt following the closure of the commercial fishery in 2000. Surveys conducted in 2004, 2012, and 2013 indicate the population has not recovered. The Dungeness crab sport fishery in the Yakutat vicinity has been closed each year since 2005 by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-128)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 47.xxx. New section.

Establish a guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery in Sitka Sound, as follows:

I would like to be able to take clients on eco tours in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area. On these tours I would like to pull pre set crab pots and or rings, for viewing purposes only.

I do not intend to retain anything so I would like to save my clients money and save them from purchasing a sport license.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose a guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery similar to the one in George Inlet near Ketchikan. Except I propose the ability to deregister and reregister for the commercial crab fishery as opposed to being registered for a full calendar year.

PROPOSED BY: Kenyatta Bradley (HQ-F17-050)
