

PROPOSAL 251

5 AAC 58.035. Methods, means, and general provisions — Shellfish.

Require two escape mechanisms per pot in the tanner crab sport fishery in the Cook Inlet and North Gulf coast areas, as follows:

All pots used in the Cook Inlet and North Coast tanner crab sport fishery must have 2 not 1 openings at least 18” long on opposite sides of the pot. Laced with biodegradable untreated twine no larger than #30 thread.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Biodegradable escape mechanism in sport Tanner Crab pots for Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast areas. There are many different configurations of pots being used. Some of the pots being used are not very heavy. In series of large tides with wind and big marking buoys or when a boat runs over the buoys and drags the pot and cuts buoy line. We end up with ghost pots. These light weight pots under these circumstances can lay over on the biodegradable opening possibly trapping crab indefinitely. The additional escape opening will benefit this fishery.

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