

PROPOSAL 275

5 AAC 34.XXX. New section.

Allow a person or vessel to participate in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after operating commercial Pacific cod pots in the Norton Sound Section within 14 days prior to the opening of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 34.xxx a person or vessel my participate in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery after operating commercial Pacific cod pots in the Norton Sound Section within 14 days prior to the opening of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Norton Sound red king crab fishermen are working to diversify their fishing operations. Fishing for Pacific cod using pots is one new opportunity. However, regulation 34.053 limits fishermen from pot fishing within Norton Sound for 14 days prior to the Norton Sound red king crab fishery. The primary time frame for fisherman to target Pacific cod is from June to September. The 14 day closure before the Norton Sound red king crab fishery is a significant amount of the available fishing time. Additionally the primary area to target Pacific cod is west of the area that most of the Norton Sound red king crab fishery occurs.

PROPOSED BY: Wes Jones

(HQ-F19-134)
