

**PROPOSAL 210**

**5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in registration Area A.**

Establish waters closed to commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in Sukwaan Strait, as follows:

5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in registration Area A; the following waters will be closed to the taking of Dungeness crab.

(19)

EXCLUDING SUKWAAN STRAITS FROM ROUND POINT 55\*.125064; -132.688544 ACROSS TO EEK POINT 55\*13770; -132.666874 NORTH TO THE HEAD OF NATZUHINI BAY 55\*270024; -132.849299 EXTENDING WEST TO THE OPENINGS OF NORTH PASS 55\*210175; -132961267 TO 55\*207138; -132938232 AND SOUTH PASS 55.168517; -132.893346 TO 55\*.163067;-132890543.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Hydaburg has a long history of utilizing and protecting the local crab stocks. In recent years, declines in other areas of southeast has moved commercial crab boats into the local area. Couple this with a huge surge in sea otters to the area, we are seeing a drastic impact to the local crab stocks. We need to close the area to the commercial fishery to protect the stock for the local users to still provide an opportunity to participate in the personal use and sport fishery. The Prince of Wales area has seen a drastic decline in Dungeness crab due to predation by sea otters, with most communities unable to get crab in customary and traditional areas. It is imperative that we close these areas to protect a limited stock.

**PROPOSED BY:** Anthony Christianson

(EF-F20-056)

\*\*\*\*\*