

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery. Increase the pot limit from 4 pots per boat to 10 pots per vessel for personal use Tanner crab fishery in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

No more than four pots per person and no more than 10 pots per boat may be used to capture Tanner crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Four pots per boat is too restrictive.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-123)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; and 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery. Repeal closure of Tanner crab sport and personal use fishery two weeks prior to July 1 in the Southeastern Alaska Area, as follows:

"Fishing for shellfish is open the entire year except:
King crab: (residents only): check for emergency order....."
Delete references to Tanner crab.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The two-week closure serves no good purpose. It was intended to provide a fair start for the personal use king crab fishery on July 1. The king crab fishery opens by emergency order and not until after stock assessment surveys are complete; this is typically sometime in August: thus the Tanner closure achieves nothing but to criminalize otherwise innocent behavior.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-124)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 34.170. Fishing seasons for Registration Area D. Establish golden king crab commercial fishery in Registration Area D under commissioner's permit, as follows:

PERMITS FOR GOLDEN KING CRAB IN AREA D. (a) Male golden king crab may be taken in Registration Area D only under the conditions of a permit issued by the commissioner.

(b) No more than 100 pots may be operated from a vessel

(c) The permit required in (a) of this section

(1) may specify season dates;

(2) may specify areas of fishing operations by district, subdistrict, or registration subareas;

(3) may establish minimum legal size limits;

(4) may require an onboard observer during all operations;

(5) may specify the type, size, and configuration of pots; pots must include an escape mechanism designed to allow female and undersized male crab to exit the pot during fishing operations;

(6) may require mandatory completion of logbooks provided by the department and require that the logbooks be attached to the fish ticket at the time of landing; and

(7) may set other conditions deemed necessary by the commissioner for conservation and management purposes.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 34.170 B states that "male golden king crab may be taken only during periods established by emergency order." I have spoken with the department and they would prefer to open the Yakutat golden king crab fishery by commissioner's permit and recommended I put in a proposal to that effect.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright

(EF-C14-061)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 34.1XX. Logbooks and 5 AAC 34.1XX. Reporting requirements for king crab in Registration Area D. Establish logbook requirement and standards for commercial king crab fisheries in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 34.1XX. Logbooks. (a) In Registration Area D, during a king crab season, an operator of a vessel registered to fish in the commercial king crab fishery shall complete logbooks provided by the department.

(b) Logbooks described in (a) of this section shall be

(1) updated daily;

(2) sealed in envelopes provided by the department to maintain confidentiality; and

(3) submitted to the primary processor or buyer for attachment to the fish ticket; the processor or buyer shall forward fish tickets with the attached, sealed envelopes containing logbooks to the department in accordance with 5 AAC 39.130.

(c) A catcher/seller described in 5 AAC 39.130 shall attach logbooks described in this section to the department copy of fish tickets.

(d) A person may not make a false entry in the logbook required in (a) of this section.

5 AAC 34.1XX. Reporting requirements for king crab in Registration Area D. In addition to the reporting requirements in 5 AAC 39.130 and 5 AAC 34.075, the commissioner may require an owner or operator of a vessel validly registered to fish in the commercial king crab fishery in Registration Area D to report to a local representative of the department the following catch information:

(1) the number of legal king crab on board the vessel and the number of pot lifts conducted during the fishing period in any fishing area, district, or portion of a district; and

(2) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the resource; the board directs the commissioner to consult with the fishing industry in developing reporting requirements under this paragraph.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations in Registration Area A require logbooks and allow for reporting requirements in Tanner crab and king crab fisheries. Logbooks and reporting requirements have proved to be beneficial in inseason management and post season fishery performance analyses in both fisheries. While no documented effort has occurred in the red and blue king crab fishery in Registration Area D since the 2000/2001 season when three permits recorded landings, there has been some recent interest in the fishery. In the 2013/2014 season a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 5,000 pounds of red and blue king crab in combination was targeted. Mandatory logbooks and reporting requirements would enable the department to more easily target similar GHLs in the future, and would improve the quality of the harvest data.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-095)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 34.185. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Modify lawful gear to allow use of square king crab pots in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 34.185. LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA D.

(c) repealed 1/24/15;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 34.185. LAWFUL GEAR FOR REGISTRATION AREA D.

(c) King crab may not be taken with pots that have tunnel eye openings located on the vertical plane of the pot.

I would like 34. 185 (c) repealed. The language of this regulation prohibits "square" pots from being used for king crab in registration Area D. I own a string of "square" pots that I use for the registration Area A king crab fishery and would like to use those same pots in registration Area D, rather than buy a new string of gear specifically for registration Area D.

No other registration area in the state has a regulation containing wordage that prohibits the use of "square" pots. In my opinion it is an arbitrary and unnecessary regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Bright (EF-C14-063)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 34.185. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Reduce the commercial king crab pot limit in the waters of Yakutat Bay and Russell Fjord from 100 pots per vessel to 40 pots per vessel, as follows:

(b) During an open commercial king crab season in those waters north and east of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape,

(1) no more than **40** [100] king crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for king crab;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow for a 100 pot limit for king crab in waters of Yakutat Bay and Russell Fjord, where virtually all of the historical red and blue king crab harvest in Registration Area D has occurred. No documented effort has occurred in the red and blue king crab fishery in Registration Area D since the 2000/2001 season when three permits recorded landings. In the 2013/2014 season a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 5,000 pounds of red and blue king crab in combination was targeted. A pot reduction would enable the department to more easily target similar GHLs in the future.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-096)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 34.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 35.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A. Allow the operation of commercial pot gear for groundfish before and during a commercial king or Tanner crab season, as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 34.128 to read "**...other than commercial shrimp pot, ground fish pots or Dungeness crab pots during the fourteen days**"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations forbid operation of otherwise legal finfish pots prior to the commercial Tanner and king crab fisheries. The Pacific cod season is typically open at this time and pots are legal gear for the taking of cod. Cod is important bait in the Tanner fishery. Operation of cod pot gear is legal before and during the Tanner fishery in other regions of Alaska (see 5 AAC 35.428).

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-118)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 34.107. Description of golden king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 34.115. Guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A. Create new commercial golden king crab fishery area in Cross Sound, as follows:

Add 5 AAC 34.107(h) Cross Sound Area: all waters of Area A west of District 14 and north of the latitude of Imperial Pass.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown crab are found outside existing fishing areas. A new area west of the Icy Straits area would allow opportunity to harvest those crab and learn more about their abundance and distribution.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Roddy (EF-C14-122)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 35.180. Lawful gear for Registration Area D. Reduce commercial Tanner crab pot limit in Registration Area D, as follows:

5 AAC 35.171 paragraph (b), (1) no more than **40** [100] pots may be operated from a vessel;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to have a study done to determine if there exists enough resource to have a limited commercial Tanner crab fishery. We would like to reduce the number of allowable pots to a more conservative number in an effort to utilize the resource without harming it.

We do not feel this reduction will harm anyone as the season has been closed by emergency order for some time. The reduction should be considered temporary, and we would ask that the pot limit be brought back to its historical limit should a complete recovery of stocks occur. We considered what the reduction level should be. It was decided that 40 pots wasn't too many, and yet might allow a small fishery to take place. It is an open number subject to approval of the Department.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-087)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. Correct a district reference for Holkham Bay and a misspelling of Point Astley, as follows:

5 AAC 34.108. Description of blue king crab fishing areas within Registration Area A. (a) Repealed / / [THE WATERS OF DISTRICT 10 IN HOLKHAM BAY EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT COKE TO POINT ASTLEY.]

- (b) The waters of District 11
 - (1) in Taku Inlet north of the latitude of Point Bishop;
 - (2) in Port Snettisham east of a line from Point Styleman to Point Anmer;
 - (3) in Holkham Bay east of a line from Point Coke to Point Astley.**
- (c) The waters of District 14 in Glacier Bay north of the latitude of Point Gustavus.
- (d) The waters of District 15 in Lynn Canal north of the latitude of Point Sherman Light.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations defining blue king crab fishing areas in Registration Area A reference Holkham Bay as part of District 10. Holkham Bay is actually part of District 11. This proposal corrects that district reference, and corrects a misspelling for Point Astley.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-094)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery; 5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 77.164. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery. Increase legal size limit for blue king crab in subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries in Registration Areas A and D, as follows:

5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery. In the subsistence taking of king crab,

...

(3) in the districts described in 5 AAC 30.200

(A) red and blue king crab may not be taken from April 1 through June 30;

(B) only male red, **blue**, and golden king crab seven inches or larger [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER,] in width of shell may be taken or possessed;

5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A. In Registration Area A, only male king crab seven inches or greater of width of shell may be taken or possessed except that

...

(3) repealed / / [MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED];

5 AAC 34.180. Size limits for Registration Area D. The size limits for king crab in Registration Area D are the same as those described for king crab in Registration Area A in 5 AAC 34.120.

5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery. In the personal use taking of king crab,

...

(2) the daily bag and possession limit is two male king crab; only male red, **blue**, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell [, AND MALE BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR GREATER IN WIDTH OF SHELL] may be possessed; male king crab less than the minimum legal size and female king crab that have been taken must be immediately returned to the water unharmed;

5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery.

...

(3) the king crab size limits are as follows:

(A) only male red, **blue**, and golden king crab seven inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed; and

(B) **repealed** / / [ONLY BLUE KING CRAB SIX AND ONE-HALF INCHES OR LARGER IN SHELL MAY BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, blue king crab are harvested commercially during the red king crab, golden king crab, and Tanner crab fisheries, and caught during subsistence and personal use fisheries in Southeast Alaska and the Yakutat Area. The current legal size is six and one-half inches carapace width. Other king crab species, such as red king crab and golden king crab, have a current legal size of seven inches carapace width, with biological information to support these legal sizes. There is no biological justification for the six and one-half inch blue king crab legal size. Blue king crab share similar biology with golden king crab and red king crab and have the longest reproductive cycle, making them more susceptible to overfishing at a reduced legal size.

Size limits are an important management tool used to allow harvest on the portion of a crab population that has reached sexual maturity and has been allowed time to contribute reproductively to the population to allow for future recruitment. These regulations will better

provide that opportunity under commercial, subsistence, and personal use regulations, and will make size limits consistent for king crab within Southeast and the Yakutat areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F14-097)
